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THE JERUSALEM POST

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EAST JERUSALEM TRIP
Har Homa, Mount of Olives,
Moslem Quarter, Orient House,
Monday, 9:30 a.m.,
from Beit Agron, 37 Hillel, Jerusalem.
Fee/info: "Our Jerusalem," 02-571 3337



18 The Magazine
Sea of troubles



10 Time Out
Dana International goes for gold



22
New, expanded weather forecast

INDEX

Business 10
International 6
News in Focus 13
Opinion 8
Classifieds 19
Sports 24

Hillary Clinton says Palestinians deserve an independent state

White House says First Lady's remarks 'not the view of the president'

By MARILYN HENRY and JAY BUSHINSKY

Stepping away from the official US position, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told a group of Israeli and Arab youths that she supports the eventual creation of an independent Palestinian state.

In remarks released yesterday by US officials, Clinton said: "I think it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state, and for it to be a state that is responsible for its citizens' well-being ... a state that has to accept the responsibility of governing."

"I think that is very important for the Palestinian people, but I also think it is very important for the broader goal of peace in the Middle East," Clinton added.

The remarks were made Wednesday during a question-and-answer session to a gathering of 75 Arab and Israeli youths in Villars, Switzerland. Clinton spoke via satellite from Washington.

They prompted measured expressions of concern among Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders, with the latter questioning Clinton's timing and motives.

Both the White House and State Department denied yesterday that Clinton was breaking new ground in US policy on a Palestinian state, saying that she was merely expressing her own opinion.

"That view expressed personally by the First Lady is not the view of the president" and is "not part of any kind of calculated strategy," White House press secretary Mike McCurry told reporters.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On said he had taken heard the disclaimer. However, he added: "It is important for Mrs. Clinton to know that many Israelis regard an independent Palestinian state as a danger to the State of Israel."

In New York, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that "it is unfortunate that Mrs. Clinton's comments came at a sensitive stage of the negotiating process.

"While we appreciate the administration's dissociating itself from these comments, they certainly will raise questions about whether this constitutes a shift in policy, a tactical decision or an off-the-cuff remark that runs counter to long-established policy," he said.

Mel Salberg, chairman of the President's Conference, termed Clinton's remark " an unfortunate statement at this delicate time."

"For the First Lady to make this kind of statement could have a significant impact," Salberg said.

Twenty-four Israeli high school students joined Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian and American teenagers at the conference, called the Middle East Youth Summit, organized by the Washington-based Seeds for Peace Organization.

Clinton urged the young people to exercise caution during their military service.

While countries must defend themselves, she said, "I think it is very important to always ask yourselves, 'Is what I am being asked to do honest and right and ethical?'"

For the last week, the youths have been meeting in the Swiss resort to develop a "Charter of Villars," which was expected to be a set of principles for Middle East peace.

The charter, which was scheduled to be completed last night, will be distributed to government leaders in the Middle East, and to the US and UN, a spokeswoman for the conference said.

The conference also hosted dignitaries from the region, including former prime minister Shimon Peres, coalition chairman MK Meir Sheetrit (Likud), Palestinian Minister Saeb Erekat and Jordan's Queen Noor.

Netanyahu, Moledet postpone coalition talks

By SARAH HONIG

Moledet will not be entering the coalition until the current uncertainty about redeployment ends, Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday.

At a meeting the two held yesterday, their first in two weeks, the two agreed to put the matter on hold for now.

Ze'evi said later he is "full of wonderment and admiration for the way Netanyahu fended off the concerted pressures exerted upon him in London. He stood his ground courageously and said what should have been stated out loud long ago – on matters of Israel's security there can be no compromise.

"This is not a matter for give and take but of life and death," Ze'evi said.

"However, we have no idea where Netanyahu will lead this process from now on. The situation is very clouded now, and in this state of uncertainty we feel it is better for Moledet to wait. No damage will be wrought if we hold off for a little while longer."

Sources in both the Likud and Moledet told *The Jerusalem Post* that both sides could not be happier with the suspension of the negotiations at this juncture.

"This is a mutually agreed upon arrangement, with Netanyahu and [Ze'evi] parting on good terms as best of friends to wait for a more opportune time," a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office told the *Post*.

The consensus in both parties is that since a deal between Netanyahu and Ze'evi was not struck in one fell swoop, its is now highly unlikely to occur, because opponents both in Moledet and the coalition had time to organize against it.

The situation is particularly critical in Moledet, whose second MK, Benny Elon, expressed reservations about "voting confidence in a government which yields any part of Eretz Yisrael."

With a possible redeployment in the offing, Ze'evi risked not only a split with Elon but losing much of his power base and the core of Moledet's support. The party faithful were not likely to have approved joining a government at a time when it could be readying itself to cede territory.

See MOLEDET, Page 22



Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak chats with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at a bar/bat mitzva celebration for orphans of IDF fallen in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Decision on chief of staff expected today

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and LIAT COLLINS

Despite a flurry of speculation over the appointment of the next IDF chief of General Staff, the decision is only expected today when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Netanyahu denied a report in *Yediot Aharonot* yesterday that he had agreed to go with Mordechai's preferred candidate, Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, but said he would reach a decision "in the very near future."

"I am definitely talking... with a number of people and will consult with them. After that I will consult with the defense minister. He will hear my opinion after I finish forming it," he said. He said his intention is to reach agreement on the appointment with Mordechai.

"One must understand that this process is a discussion of a very important matter. It's not trivial. The general rule which guides us in making decisions on personnel, as with other matters, is to consider all the possibilities very carefully.

"We are blessed with excellent officers and commanders. And we have to choose what is best for the State of Israel and the IDF," Netanyahu said.

Mordechai is the loser, Page 4
Training the IDF, Page 14

He was speaking with reporters after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

During the meeting, committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) reportedly condemned the attempted interference by senior IDF officers in the appointment procedure, calling it "completely unacceptable."

MK Ori Orr (Labor), a retired general, said the appointment of the new chief of staff should have been made when the retirement date of the current CGS, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, was confirmed.

Channel 2 reported that today's decisive meeting will take place at 9 a.m. at Netanyahu's office. Sources in the Prime Minister's Office could only confirm that there would be a meeting. Defense Ministry officials said late last night that they still hadn't received word if and when a meeting was scheduled.

Mordechai and Netanyahu were to have met yesterday on the matter, but for reasons never made clear, the session was repeatedly delayed, until it was finally canceled.

Netanyahu, who reportedly backs Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, did find time to meet yesterday evening with Labor Party leader and former chief of general staff Ehud Barak over the appointment. No details were available from that meeting.

Yediot Aharonot's political reporter Shimon Schiffer said Netanyahu had decided to approve Mofaz because he does not want a confrontation with his defense minister. This came after Mordechai reportedly told Netanyahu that not choosing his candidate would be viewed as a vote of no-confidence in him.

Last night, Vilna'i declined to answer reporter's questions on the affair.

"I have nothing to say. Everything is written anyway in the press. I have nothing to add," he said. "Everything is OK."

Vilna'i was speaking in Tel Aviv to a gathering of handicapped IDF veterans, who gave him a grand round of applause when he entered. Mordechai was also present at the gathering.

See CHIEF, Page 22

Ross arrives here today

Summit still in doubt

By JAY BUSHINSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER, and STEVE RODAN

US envoy Dennis Ross is to arrive today to continue discussions with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on US proposals toward a summit in Washington on Monday to launch final-status talks with the Palestinians.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke with Netanyahu from London and agreed to his request to dispatch Ross, the State Department said. A US official said Ross would probably meet with Netanyahu before Shabbat.

"I don't know if we'll get to Washington by Monday, because there are a lot of issues that are left open," Netanyahu told CNN.

A senior official's remark that Netanyahu "may not go" triggered urgent news bulletins around the world. Asked whether Netanyahu will be going to Washington, foreign policy adviser Uzi Arad said, "First there are decision-making processes which must take place and which have not been consummated."

Arad included Ross in this framework, saying "He is an integral part of this issue."

US President Bill Clinton told the National Mayors Conference in Washington yesterday that Ross is going "with my instruction to literally go the extra mile, to seize this opportunity for peace, to launch the final-status talks.

"I do not want to minimize the difficulties. Both sides have to make very hard decisions if we're going to keep moving forward. But the prize is a just and lasting and secure peace, and the prize can be attained. We're going to do everything we can to make it a reality."

For the second consecutive day, he denied the US has presented Israel with an ultimatum to accept its redeployment proposal, saying that "what we are trying to do is simply to regain the momentum that has been lost in the past few months."

State Department spokesman James Foley said Albright hopes Ross's trip "will see progress that can make it possible to hold the meeting in Washington based on acceptance of the US ideas that we presented in London" earlier this week.

"I think the very fact that Prime Minister Netanyahu has asked Ambassador Ross to return is a hopeful sign," Foley said. Ross will not be meeting with Arafat on his weekend visit, Foley added.

In a one-hour call late Wednesday with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, meeting in New York to discuss the perceived crisis in US-Israeli relations, Albright reasserted the administration's position that it is not presenting Jerusalem with an ultimatum.

Albright said her meetings with Netanyahu in London were the best she's had with him in a long time, conference executive director Malcolm Hoenlein said. But the conference's members remain "very confused" by Albright's perceived ultimatum to Netanyahu, despite her denial during the conference call, he said.

See SUMMIT, Page 12

PM: US broke security pledge, Page 2

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:45 p.m.	8:04 p.m.
Tel Aviv	7:03 p.m.	8:06 p.m.
Haifa	6:57 p.m.	8:07 p.m.
Beersheba	7:01 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Eilat	6:59 p.m.	8:01 p.m.

House panel: US can't spend aid surplus in Israel

By HILLEL KUTTLER and DAVID HARRIS

Any extra military aid Israel receives from the US may not be spent in Israel, according to House foreign operations subcommittee chairman Sonny Callahan.

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post*, Callahan said he has rejected Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's proposal that Israel be allowed to spend more than 25 percent of its military assistance outside the US.

He said Neeman understands and "saw the difficulty" in creating an exception to legislation that puts a cap on overseas spending of US aid.

Neeman is expected back in Jerusalem after failing to conclude the Israel-originated talks in Washington, aimed a phasing out Israel's annual $1.2 billion civilian aid over the next decade and increasing the $1.8b. defense package by a yearly $600 million.

After talks among Neeman, Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstat and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk, a joint statement was issued saying considerable progress had been made:

"The meeting was productive, with both sides agreeing to move ahead on a basis of the basic framework outlined in the Israeli proposal. Both sides agreed to attempt to finalize the discussions in order to come to an agreement on a multi-year restructuring of bilateral US assistance."

Once again, all parties agreed the talks "have no connection whatsoever to separate political discussions relating to the Middle East peace process."

Neeman's backroom team in the Treasury, who were party to the negotiations with Indyk last week, said on Wednesday that at no point did the Americans attempt to link the sums under discussion or where the military assistance can be spent to the geopolitical situation.

See AID, Page 22

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NEWS
in brief

PM says Lebanon proposal "not a bluff."

Saying he wasn't bluffing about Lebanon, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu proposed yesterday that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan mediate an end to Israel's presence there.

Netanyahu said he would prefer to sit down with the government of Lebanon but added "we all respect Kofi Annan, let him come here."

"We just want to know that the Lebanese army will take up the positions we vacate in order to ensure that Hizbullah won't target Israeli towns and villages, civilians from the south of Lebanon," Netanyahu told CNN. "It's a very simple and fair proposition and it's not a bluff." *AP*

Croatian FM due on visit next week

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic will visit Israel next week during which he will meet the nation's leaders, visit Yad Vashem and sign several bilateral agreements on civil aviation, tourism and exemptions for bearers of diplomatic passports.

Granic, who also serves as Croatia's deputy prime minister, will be his country's highest-ranking official to arrive here since it established diplomatic relations last September. *Jay Bushinsky*

Nazi hunter's gloves donated to Yad Vashem

Brown suede gloves worn by a Mossad agent who helped capture Nazi SS leader Adolf Eichmann 38 years ago have been donated to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, the institution announced yesterday.

Agent Zvi Malchin told Yad Vashem that he wore the gloves to avoid touching Eichmann when he dragged him into a waiting car, spokeswoman Iris Rosenberg said. The gloves were donated to the museum by Gabriel Adam, a US publisher who lost 186 relatives in the Holocaust, Rosenberg said. *AP*

PM: US broke security pledge

Says America cannot unilaterally decide extent of pullback

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday denied there is a crisis with the US but reportedly told a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that by deciding on the 13.1 percent redeployment figure without consulting with Israel, the US had broken its promise from the Hebron Agreement that Israel alone would determine its security needs.

Netanyahu described claims by opposition MKs that he is seeking a conflict with the US as a means of saving the coalition as "ridiculous."

"I am looking forward to working with the president and secretary of state to try to arrive at a secure peace for Israel," he told reporters. "That means right now an interim settlement leading to the beginning of negotiations on the final status, a permanent peace between us and the Palestinians. I think the assistance of the US, the friendship and the partnership with it is absolutely important for us.

"Remember that even among friends there can be disagreements, and in this case it is agreed between us as friends that in matters of security Israel, and Israel alone, is the one that can make the determinations," Netanyahu said.

He said he had proven by going to the London meeting that he is willing to go anywhere for a "true and secure peace which will not collapse after two days."

He repeated he would not accept



Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday. (Efraim Kilshtok)

dictates and said Israel could not hand over the percentage of land it is being asked to. He said new, different formulas had been raised in London.

In the committee, Netanyahu said opinion polls show that 60 percent of the US public supports his stance on security and that this had surprised the Clinton administration. Netanyahu said there is also firm support in Congress for his insistence on secure borders.

When Netanyahu reportedly taunted opposition MKs, "what will you eat if I do get a good security agreement?" Meretz leader Yossi Sarid volunteered "one of your cigars," while Meretz MK Ran Cohen offered to devour one of Netanyahu's children's diapers.

Cohen later clarified he was talking about a clean one. And Netanyahu later offered to pay for the cigar for Sarid.

Sarid said Netanyahu preferred a conflict with the US to one with the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, likening its name (Yesha in Hebrew) to the "Mafia Council."

Labor leader Ehud Barak said Netanyahu is leading the country toward a Yom Kippur War-style disaster. If the peace process collapses, there will be bloodshed in conditions under which the IDF would find it difficult to operate, he said.

MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin (Likud) accused Netanyahu of being "on an ego trip" and said that at the Likud Central Committee meeting this week "it was all 'I, I, I.'"

Begin said he had lost confidence in the prime minister and would act as he sees fit.



Remembering the MIAs

Avital Sharansky (right), the keynote speaker at a fund-raising dinner in Jerusalem last night by the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, poses with (from left) former POW Hezi Shai, the tank commander of missing soldiers Zvi Feldman, Zacharia Baumel, and Yossi Katz, Avraham and Penina Feldman, and Miriam and Yona Baumel. (Bryan McBurney)

Albright: US may reconsider Oslo process

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON – The US will reconsider the Oslo process if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not accept the American proposals for a redeployment in the West Bank and attend the Washington launch of final-status talks next Monday, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said.

In an interview with the London-based *Financial Times*, published yesterday, Albright, who stayed on in London after the end of the talks on Tuesday, said that if Oslo collapsed the US would continue to try to broker an agreement.

But, she said, "we will have to re-examine the way we go about it and take a different tack."

She refused to elaborate, but the paper said it was clear that one result would likely be Washington publicly blaming Israel for the collapse of the process.

Albright praised Netanyahu for being "very helpful and constructive" during their talks in London earlier this week, but she said he "needs to persuade [the cabinet] of what we are all persuaded – that while Israel's security is obviously for Israel to decide on, a nation is inherently more secure if it can get along with the people who are living cheek by jowl, as well as with its other neighbors."

She also made it clear that she saw no excuse for Netanyahu's failure to persuade the cabinet because of his "pretty strong position in the cabinet".

On security, she said that "there are now mechanisms that have been put in place... which we believe are working better – and in fact Netanyahu has said they are working better. We have stated over and over again that 100 percent effort [by the Palestinian Police] may not always bring 100% effect".

Albright, who refused to formally detail the terms of the US proposal, said the central issue now was the size of the redeployment – "a matter of trying to see what is do-able" – in order to wrap up the interim issues and permit the Palestinians to "put flesh on their dreams."

Off-duty soldier drowns in Golan pool

By DAVID RUDGE and Itim

Navy divers yesterday recovered the body of off-duty IDF soldier Andrew Landau, 21, from the bottom of a pool in the Nahal Yehudiya region of the Golan Heights.

Landau, a resident of Tiberias, immigrated to Israel from Russia with his father three years ago, while his mother and sister remained there.

Landau slipped and fell into the pool while hiking trip in the area with his girlfriend, a tourist from Russia, on Wednesday evening.

Searches were conducted throughout the evening but were called off as darkness. The searches resumed yesterday morning, and shortly afterwards the body of the missing soldier was discovered at the bottom of the eight-meter-deep pool.

His rifle and army equipment were found on his body. It is believed that the weight of the equipment caused him to sink to the bottom of the pool and prevented him from swimming to the surface.

The IDF Spokesman said the soldier's family had been informed and that the Military Police were investigating.

It is unclear whether he will be buried here or in Russia.

His mother has asked that his body be flown to Russia for burial, and his father said he would not oppose this.

"Without my son, I have nothing here," he said, sobbing. "His place of burial doesn't matter to me."

Two dead in road accidents

Rela Stein, 78, of Givatayim, was killed yesterday when she was hit by a truck as she was crossing at a crosswalk in the town. The driver was arrested.

Boris Fishman, 65, was hit by a commercial vehicle as he was riding his bicycle in Tel Aviv. He was declared dead at the scene. *Itim*

Palestinian A-G says justice minister harassing him

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Outgoing Palestinian Authority Attorney-General Fayez Abu Rahme, who announced his resignation last week, says PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein has disconnected his telephone, removed his office staff and official car and rejected his order for the release of a Hamas leader.

In an interview with the Hamas weekly, *Al Risala*, Abu-Rahme recounted his battles with Abu Medein, and said he had resigned because PA security agencies ignored his orders to free detainees.

"The minister of justice was always angry at me," Abu Rahme said. "He took my secretary and two other workers from me. He sent me a message saying that another two deputy attorneys-general must co-sign my directives.

"He sent a message to the finance minister asking him not to respond to my letters to pay the rent of the attorney-general's office and for the office furniture. He took one of my bodyguards and called the governor of the northern region and asked him to take my secretary and driver.

"I was startled one day to learn that my [office] telephone lines were not working. When I asked why I was told it was on order of the minister of justice. He even tried to prevent the issuance of gasoline for one of my cars."

Abu Medein could not be reached for a response.

Abu Rahme said he complained to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in several letters about Abu Medein's behavior but the PA chief did not respond.

The attorney-general said he lost access to Arafat after Abu Rahme ordered the release of 11 Palestinian detainees. He said Arafat refused to meet him despite 11 requests.

After two months of waiting, Abu Rahme's resignation request was accepted by Arafat on May 1. The outgoing attorney-general said Arafat asked him not to return to his office.

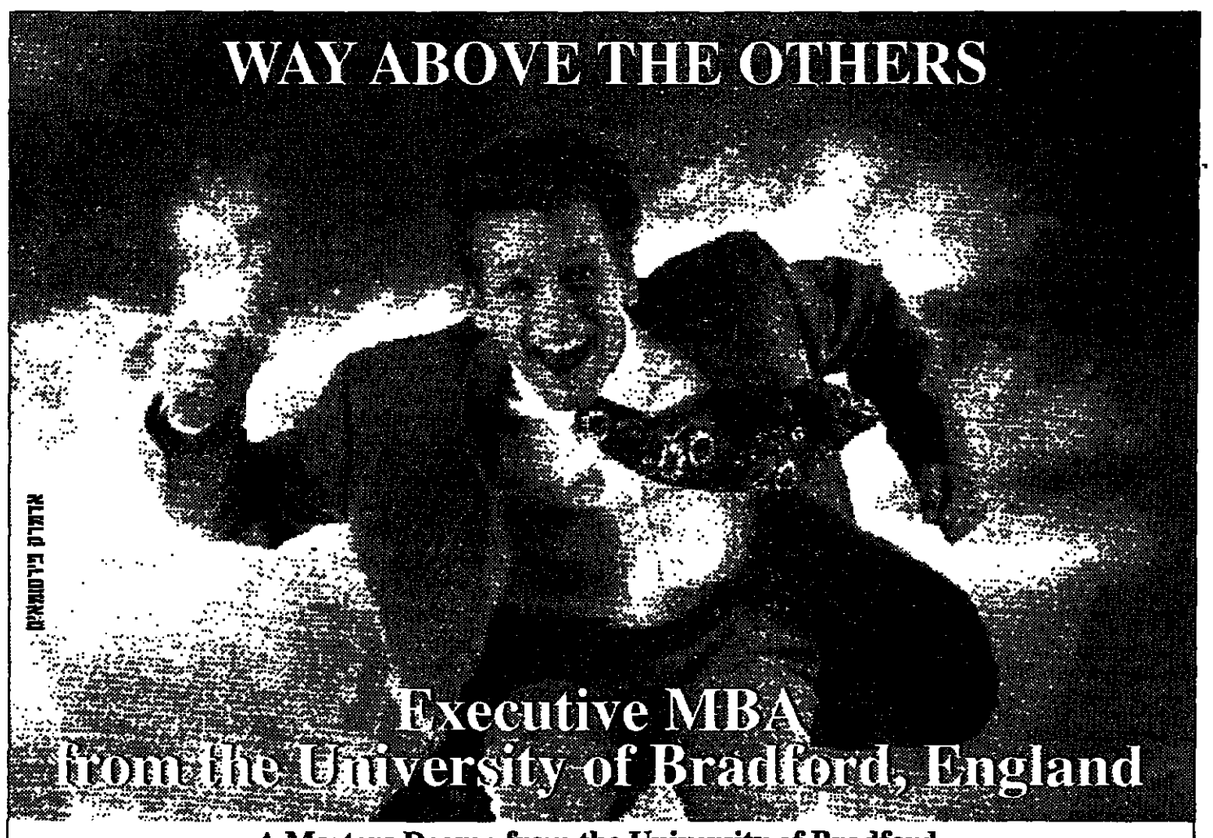
Meanwhile, the Palestinian High Court yesterday ordered Abu Rahme to explain the detention of two Hamas leaders since April 9.

They are Abdul Aziz Rantisi and Ibrahim Makadmeh, who were arrested following the killing of Hamas bombmaker Muhi Sharif.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 722169 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 567361 won the car.

Tickets 061324, 032346, 805242, 875041, 732007, 016735, 671072 and 879415 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 16938, 86728, 83074, 33128, 81121, 38019, 93677, 52723, 83617, 35391, 25978, 89562, 77932, 95210, 28854, 91036, 82788, 84612 and 38411 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 597, 830, 088 and 102 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 37, 65, 78 and 67 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 67 and 38 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 1 and 5 won NIS 10.



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Getting ready for Eurovision

Dana International, the Israeli entrant for the Eurovision Song Contest, performs during rehearsals in Birmingham, England yesterday. The contest takes place tomorrow night. (AP)

Arab stabbed in Jerusalem

Police : Mea She'arim attack probably in revenge for Old City murder

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

As yeshiva students scuffled with Wakf (Islamic Trust) officials yesterday morning over the ownership of an Old City house they occupied hours after fellow student Haim Kerman was murdered, a Palestinian laborer was stabbed in the back in the capital's Mea She'arim quarter.

Police forcibly removed the Wakf officials for questioning before releasing them. Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said that records show the Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva had purchased the house legally and therefore there is no reason to evict the students.

Yesterday the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court placed a gag order on details of the weapon used in yesterday's stabbing of Nashad Salah, who was on his way to work in the haredi neighborhood when he was attacked. Police say this fifth stabbing in the same neighborhood in half a year, apparently in revenge for the Kerman slaying, was committed by the same person.

Salah, 38, from the Wadi Joz neighborhood, was admitted to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem in satisfactory condition.

Yitzhaki said tension is high in the capital and there has been an escalation of violence. "Jerusalem has always suffered from nationalistically motivated attacks," he said.

Under heavy police guard, the yeshiva students continued to renovate the occupied building yesterday, as fellow students pitched tents on land they said belongs to them in the Moslem Quarter near Herod's Gate.

"We want the Palestinians to know that, when they kill one of us, our response is not revenge, but to show them that they cannot drive us out," said Ateret Kohanim director Yossi Baumel. He said the building was purchased in 1991 by an American benefactor.

Watching the yeshiva students pass buckets of rubble, members of the Palestinian family that claims ownership of the house sat on chairs with their backs to the building, flanked by neighbors and Moslem clerics.

"People called us at one o'clock in the morning to tell us the Jews have gone to our house. This is my house. We have papers from 100 years ago," said Mariam Abdeen, clutching documents she says prove the house belongs to her. Abdeen claimed an Arab woman had forged ownership of the house and sold it to a Tel Aviv lawyer. The family moved out of the house last year, she said.

"This is an attack by settlers that is just one of many aimed at *Judaizing the city of Jerusalem*. This is a den of settlers in a Moslem neighborhood and creates more tension," said Sheikh Mohammed Hussein, director of Al-Aksa Mosque.

In another example of the tension, early yesterday evening the Old City monument set up in memory of Gavriel Hirschberg, an Ateret Kohanim student who was shot to death last November in the Moslem Quarter, was sprayed with black paint by vandals.

Armed Palestinian policeman arrested in capital

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

A Palestinian policeman and five other Palestinians were still in custody last night, a day after a raid by security forces on a house in the northern Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina.

The raid was based on information that armed Palestinian police were holding a gathering there.

The majority of those in custody were in their twenties and from the territories, said Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

He added that early yesterday morning Israeli police found over a hundred bullets and two guns outside the home. They were sent for ballistic tests to determine to whom they belonged, he added.

Palestinians yesterday contested police accounts that the raid on the house came after an attempted abduction of a border policeman. Instead, they said, police in an unmarked vehicle blocked a Palestinian car and then opened fire on it, wounding two passengers.

Palestinian sources said a *sulha* (reconciliation) was taking place in the house at the time of the police raid. It was between a family from Abu Dis and a family from Beit Hanina, they said.

Jerusalem Police Chief Yair Yitzhaki said he found the claims of a sulha hard to accept.

"I have no problems with sulhas, they are something positive," he said. "But I will not allow armed Palestinian police to roam Jerusalem. It is a clear violation of all the rules."

He commended the police handling of the raid, while Ben-Ruby said the police were following their routine procedure of investigating how the forces behaved.

In Beit Hanina, the owners of the home, the Gharabli family, called a press conference during which the driver, Jamal Awad Gharabli, said an unmarked police car had blocked him. The family is related to Anwar Awad Gharabli, the personal aide of West Bank Preventive Security Head Jibril Rajoub.

"I heard them talking in Hebrew and one of them asked his colleagues to shoot at us," Gharabli said.

"That's what happened, my brother Jamil was hit by two bullets and so was my cousin," he said. "After that more forces arrived in the area and imposed a closure."

Labor to choose TA mayor candidate in closed primaries

By SARAH HONIG

Labor will not be holding open primaries to choose its Tel Aviv mayoral candidate after all. A special party committee decided yesterday on closed primaries, in which only dues-paying Tel Avivian Laborites could cast ballots.

This spelled outright victory for the Labor-Tel Aviv branch and head of the municipal campaign headquarters MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who had been hotly opposed to the open primaries.

These would have allowed the participation of any Tel Aviv resident, regardless of his political affiliation. All that would have been required would have been payment of a nominal fee.

The open primaries were successfully tried out by Labor in Haifa over five years ago.

Ben-Eliezer reported at the committee meeting yesterday that ever since Ronni Milo dropped out of the race Monday, the one declared Laborite running for mayor, Herzliya Gymnasium principal Ron Huldai, has been doing better in polls, which have no Likud candidate to compare him to.

Huldai, who had been vehemently opposed by party chairman Ehud Barak, Ben-Eliezer and the Tel Aviv branch, is now for all intents and purposes the sole candidate in the Labor mayoral primaries. Two names of relatively unknown Labor functionaries have been entered, but they are seen as not threatening Huldai.

Barak has already amended his attitude to Huldai to accommodate the changing situation. Barak now says Huldai is a good candidate and if he wins the primaries, Barak will endorse him fully.

All primaries candidates must register for the race by today.

Man convicted of raping 12-year-old

Avraham Yakobov, 24, of Tel Aviv, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old girl, hiring her out as a prostitute and then selling her to a local escort service.

His cousin, Maxim Shakrov, 22, was sentenced to a year's probation for the same crimes.

Yakobov was also convicted of forging an identity card for the girl, who had run away from home, so he could present her as older.

In late 1994, the two met the girl at the Tel Aviv Central Bus Station and promised to find her work and a place to live. On that same day, both of them had sex with the girl.

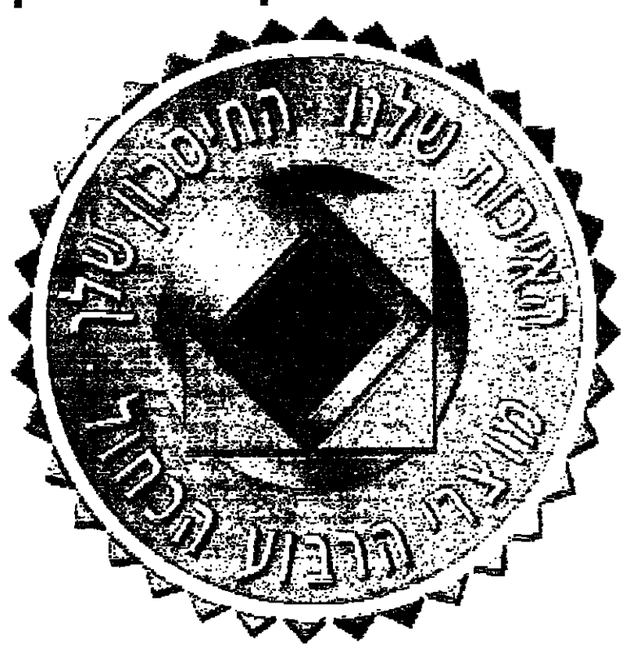
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NEWS
in brief

SLA frees two from Khiam jail

The South Lebanese Army (SLA) freed two Lebanese inmates from a south Lebanon prison, a Lebanese security source said.

The source said the SLA returned Ghassan Musa, 37, and Ghanem Najy, 41, to Lebanese-controlled territory. Musa was imprisoned in the SLA-run Khiam jail for 12 years and Najy for three years. Israel holds an estimated 50 Lebanese prisoners in Israel and another 160 are held at Khiam prison. The human rights group Amnesty International has repeatedly urged Israel to free Lebanese being held without trial. *Reuters*

Hizbullah turns out thousands to mark martyr

Hizbullah turned out tens of thousands of supporters yesterday to mark the martyrdom of Shiite Islam's most revered figure in a striking show of the terror group's popularity.

The march through the southern suburbs of Beirut has become an annual display of force to commemorate the death of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

"We will continue our battle," said Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbullah's leader, drawing cheers from the crowd. "Since death for us has become more delicious than honey, we have become stronger than Israel and America." *AP*

Bar-Ilan to award honorary doctorates

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, actress Orna Porat, and songwriter Naomi Shemer are to receive honorary doctorates from Bar-Ilan University later this month, the university announced yesterday.

Other honorary doctorate recipients include Yosef Orgler of Germany, who helped rescue Lithuanian refugees and was a founder of Kibbutz Kfar Etzion; philanthropist Henry Taub of the US, former chairman and president of the Joint Distribution Committee; and US toy manufacturer Fred Kort, who recently established a post-doctoral scholarship fund for 100 Chinese students at Bar-Ilan. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Technion awards Harvey Prizes

The Technion's Harvey Prizes were yesterday awarded to Prof. Richard M. Karp of the University of Washington and Prof. K. Barry Sharples of the Scripps-Howard Research Institute in California. The $35,000 prize, established in 1972 by the late Leo Harvey of Los Angeles, recognizes major contributions in the fields of science, technology, and Middle Eastern literature and the furthering of peace in the region. Karp received the science and technology prize for his work in computer sciences and the development of algorithms; Sharples was cited for his work in organic chemistry, especially his pioneering research into symmetric catalysis, which is very important in organic synthesis. *Judy Siegel*

Prison officials put under guard

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Police beefed up security around high-ranking Prisons Service and government officials yesterday, as some 100 police investigators were trying to track down the killer of Dr. Ya'acov Zigelboim, the Prisons Service's chief medical, education, and rehabilitation officer. Zigelboim was killed by a bomb rigged to car on Wednesday morning.

Police officials stressed they were considering all possible suspects, including followers of cult leader Uzi Meshulam, but refused to divulge whether progress has been made.

Investigation chief Cmdr. Yossi Sidbon said on Israel Radio yesterday that investigators are seeking to determine whether the bomb that killed Zigelboim had been set to detonate after he dropped his two children off at school. He said officials believe whoever planted the bomb is a professional.

Meanwhile, high-ranking Prisons Service officials are being protected by armed guards. Nitzana Prison warden Eli Gabizon said yesterday he is not worried about not arriving safely to work, but carefully examined his car before leaving home.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said police permitted Meshulam's followers to hold a rally in Jerusalem's Independence Park on Tuesday afternoon, where they severely criticized the police and made inciting statements against them. Yitzhaki said that details of what was said by Meshulam's followers at the rally had been noted and transferred to the national crimes squad.

Hundreds of Prisons Service officers, government officials, and police attended Zigelboim's funeral yesterday in Tel Aviv. Prisons Service Commissioner Amos Azzani said Zigelboim's murder had "crossed all the red lines." Others recalled the clinics he established to treat drug addicts and a prisoners' dialysis unit he set up.

Speaking on Israel Television, Zigelboim's wife, Monique, said her husband never told her who threatened him in the past, as he did not want her to worry. The last time he was under police protection, she said, was some eight months ago.

She recalled that her husband had only positive things to say about Meshulam and told her that there was a mutual understanding between them. "He never believed that he needed protection, as he always said that his work was helping prisoners," she said.



Prisons Service chief medical officer Dr. Ya'acov Zigelboim is carried to his final rest by comrades yesterday at Tel Aviv's Givat Shaul Cemetery. (Ilan Ossendryver Israel Sun)

Security expert says:

IDF needs sweeping changes

By DAVID RUDGE

Sweeping changes are needed to revamp the IDF and its cadre of commanders and soldiers in order to confront strategic security threats in the future and ongoing budgetary constraints, according to Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor, a Haifa University security specialist.

"The IDF is following various doctrines and lines of thinking which are outmoded because they respond to the realities of yesteryear and not those of today and tomorrow," said Ben-Dor, director of the university's Graduate Program on National Security Studies.

"We need to build the army of tomorrow which will not be the people's army as we have known it," he said. Rather, it should be "a highly trained and professional army and one without any pretensions of being an instrument for justice and social change."

Ben-Dor outlined his recommendations during a three-day conference at the university entitled "Israel: From Jubilee to Jubilee."

"To utilize budgets optimally, it will not be possible in the IDF of tomorrow to have the present two-career system for officers and soldiers who serve 20 years, receive a pension, and then begin new careers outside the army," he said.

"More time is needed for training in the technological era so that officers would really make a career in the army and would serve in it for most of their lives," he said.

According to Ben-Dor, forces would also have to be revamped to bring the IDF into line with the highly professional and efficient armies of Western countries, including those of the US and Western Europe.

He has proposed radical changes that would see some conventional forces, including armor, artillery and infantry units down-sized, while strategic capabilities would be upgraded and expanded.

"We need to expand certain parts of the Air Force, missiles and anti-missile defense systems, parts of the navy and put emphasis on building up special forces that would be highly mobile and capable of penetrating the enemy's heartland," said Ben-Dor.

Mordechai loser no matter what the choice

ANALYSIS

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

No matter who is eventually chosen as the next chief of general staff, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai comes out the loser.

The choice of the CGS has become for him a watershed in his relationship with the prime minister. If he can't chose his own top general, then he is nothing but a weak clerk.

But if his man Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz is chosen over Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, then it will be said of him that he is petty, small-minded and acts according to bizarre personal grudges. If this is true, he is not yet ripe for national leadership.

If Mofaz, a talented officer, is chosen, he comes into office with his wings clipped, knowing that the prime minister was against his appointment and burdened with the image of being Mordechai's lackey.

Mordechai's whole future as defense minister rests on Mofaz. According to political commentator Hanan Crystal, if Mofaz succeeds as chief of general staff and comes across well in the media, then all is forgiven.

But if Mofaz fails to live up to expectations, continues to come across poorly in the media and stumbles at the helm, then it will be Mordechai who will pay the price.

"Everyone knows – the political establishment, the IDF and the media – that Mordechai's consideration to chose Mofaz was personal. It was anti-Vilna'i, who beat him out of the post of deputy chief of general staff," Crystal said.

Political observers believe Netanyahu saw that Mordechai had crossed his Rubicon, was holding fast for his candidate and threatening that a rejection of Mofaz was a vote of no-confidence in him. Netanyahu saw he had two options – he could reject Mofaz, which would be paramount to a knockout for Mordechai, who would be forced to either swallow it or quit.

But that would leave Netanyahu weak at a time when he needs support for negotiations on a second withdrawal. Or his second option could be to accept Mofaz over his preferred candidate, Vilna'i.

"Apparently he has decided the latter, but has stretched it out to make Mordechai sweat," said Crystal.

When Mordechai replaced Vilna'i with Mofaz, his official reason was that he didn't want to have both the chief of general staff and his deputy change at the same time and that he wanted more than one candidate for chief of staff.

What we have learned from the way Mordechai handled the choice is that he never had two candidates, only Mofaz.

Mofaz is accompanied by his ethnic Iranian immigrant background. In some ways, appointing Mofaz as deputy chief of general staff was fulfilling everything Mordechai wanted in the IDF but couldn't do.

"I don't think that the matter is going to have any effect on Mordechai's image," said Likud MK and former senior GSS official Gideon Ezra. "I am certain his considerations were completely and utterly clean. He knows he wasn't choosing someone for an honorary title. The CGS needs to defend the state of Israel, and that's a true job."

Prof. Martin Van Creveld, a military historian at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, commended Mordechai for not choosing Vilna'i. "Whatever you say about Mordechai, he has to have a chief of general staff that he can work with. And if he cannot work with Vilna'i, for whatever reason, that is one very important consideration," he said.

Still, the job of chief of staff requires a commander, and not necessarily a comfortable person with which to work.

One thing to watch for is whether the new chief of general staff will have a closer relationship with Netanyahu then the prime minister has with outgoing CGS Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

It will be curious to see if the lack of communication between Shahak and Netanyahu was due to the former's personality or part of the trend in which the chief of general staff is becoming less important or that the Likud leadership is itself suspicious of the IDF.

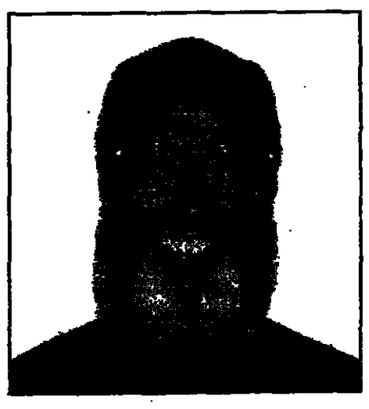
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Marking VE Day

Immigrant war veterans from the former Soviet Union hand out flowers during a march in Jerusalem from Kikar Zion to Kikar Safra yesterday to mark VE Day, which is today. Some 1,300 people participated in the march.

Burg: Swiss pressured PR firm to quit agency

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Jewish agency Chairman Avraham Burg yesterday accused PR firm Ruder Finn of abandoning the agency as a client following pressure from the Swiss government, which is also its client.

The problem arose last week when the Agency issued a press release in which Burg threatened that the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) would initiate class-action suits against Swiss banks wherever possible.

The Jerusalem office of the US-based Ruder Finn translated the press release and distributed it to the international media.

In response, the Swiss government, which had again retained the PR firm on April 1, suspended its connection with the firm and Ruder Finn then suspended its work for the agency.

Burg said he regarded Ruder Finn's actions as a breach of trust and warned he intended to initiate a suit against the firm.

Ruder Finn's activities, Burg said, constituted "dual loyalty."

According to Sharon Geffen, director of the communications and marketing group at the Jewish agency, the agency knew when seeking the services of Ruder Finn that it had represented the Swiss government in the past and had noted this could constitute a conflict of interests.

But the PR firm assured the agency at the time that it was not employed by Swiss interests, she said.

Ruder Finn chairman David Finn issued a statement in New York in which he noted the firm's involvement with Israel and the Jewish community and the connection with the Swiss government.

"When the Swiss government retained us in April to be of help on World War II issues we felt that we could be effective intermediaries and welcomed the opportunity to do so," Finn said, citing a letter from World Jewish Congress secretary-general Israel Singer to Finn, thanking Finn for his efforts with regard to "the Swiss issue."

Finn described the matter of the press release as unfortunate and as a departure from the traditional "humanitarian" role of the agency.

Jeff Kahn, the head of Ruder Finn's Jerusalem office, said a local staff member who translated the press release had not realized it was from the WJRO and not the agency, and thus should not have been handled by the firm.

Kahn also said that although the firm has been working for the agency since February, it still has no contract and has not yet been paid for any of the work.

Geffen said Burg's activities for restitution of Jewish wealth were undertaken in his capacity as chairman of the agency.

She said the contract was about to be signed before the controversy, and it was up to the lawyers to determine how the firm could be sued for breach of trust when no contract existed.

MKs bid to up their pensions by 2%

By LIAT COLLINS

Not all the percentage figures being discussed in the Knesset this week concerned the further redeployment. Some MKs took time off from talks on the diplomatic process to begin an effort to add 2 percent to their annual pensions.

The idea came up this week in the Knesset House Committee, although committee chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) opposes it.

Both Pinhasi and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon noted yesterday that MKs in the last Knesset accepted a cut from a 4% annual pension to 2% as part of the recommendations of the Rosen-Tsvi Committee on MKs' salaries. In return for this and other demands, the MKs received a 33% wage hike – which has since been increased.

Among the MKs who support reinstating the 4% annual pension is Labor Party secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen. He gives as an example the theoretical case of an MK above age 55 who has served one term. The MK might find himself unemployed with an 8% pension, he says. He notes that judges did not take the pension cut.

Tichon expressed surprise that it had taken the legislators so long to work out that the pension cut they had agreed to would be more significant in the long term than the immediate pay hike, and said the judges had shown more financial savvy when they had fought against a similar move regarding their salaries and pensions.

It was a huge concession, as I said at the time, but they agreed to it and the Rosen-Tsvi recommendations were a package deal," Tichon said. He added that the new MKs who are more concerned and affected by the cut are leading the move to change it, "But I hope they don't succeed," he said.

Or Akiva unemployed blockade industrial park

By DAVID RUDGE

Hundreds of Or Akiva residents burned tires and blocked the road leading to the Caesarea industrial park for over an hour yesterday to protest rising unemployment and the government's policies.

At one stage the protesters, who held aloft placards and chanted slogans, tried to force their way into the industrial zone, but were prevented by police and security guards.

Or Akiva council head Ya'acov Edri said the government had established the industrial park to help solve the unemployment problems, but the Caesarea Development Corporation ignores the residents.

"We won't leave the development corporation or the government alone until the [unemployment] problem is solved, and it can be solved," Edri told the demonstrators. The development corporation has denied the allegations.

The number of registered jobless in the township of 18,000 has reached nearly 13 percent – one of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz attended the demonstration in a gesture of solidarity with the plight of jobless in the township and the country in general. He warned of the possibility of Israelis fighting foreign workers for jobs.

"How would the country look if the battle over livelihoods and bread were to spread onto the streets?" said Peretz.

Edri, at a rally later outside the Or Akiva Local Council office, vowed that the demonstration is only the first move in a series of actions aimed at solving the grave unemployment problem in the township and surrounding areas.

Students protest high tuition

Twenty Tel Aviv University students, led by Erez Eshel, the student union chairman, besieged the Tel Aviv office of Education Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday, demanding a meeting with him to protest the state comptroller's findings on funding for haredim.

They also requested assistance in their battle for free undergraduate tuition for those who have done army or national service.

The students blocked traffic on Rehov Shaul Hamelech for a few minutes.

After a meeting between Eshel and Deputy Minister Moshe Peled, students sought to enter Levy's office.

Levy's aides and police pushed the protesters back, but some students began pounding on his door. They hung signs on the halls saying "Wait for the Elections" and "Students, Be Strong!"

After an hour, Levy agreed to meet with three student representatives on condition that the rest of the students leave the floor and allow access to the office.

"I am ready to be a partner to their struggle provided they don't carp and criticize," Levy said after the meeting. "They are right that higher education in this country is very expensive." (Itim)

BOOKCASES

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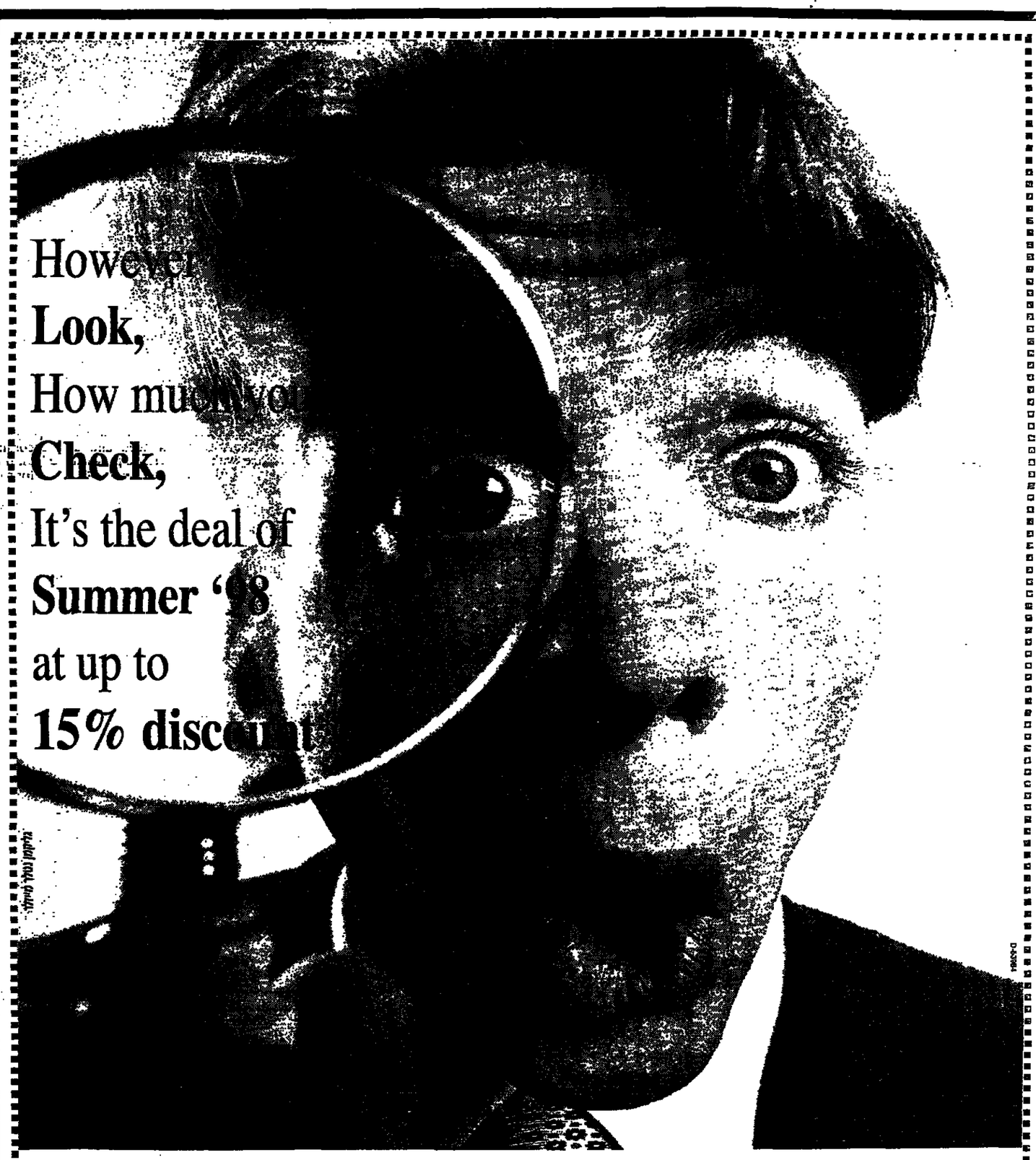


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Blair's Brits

Recently, some prime minister apparently admitted that during his first 18 months in office, he didn't know what he was doing. (The media had dutifully reported the obvious fact, but had been savaged for doing so.)

Whoever this prime minister may be (if the story is not just an urban legend), it certainly cannot be Tony Blair, and not just because he hasn't been in office for 18 months. This man knows what he's doing, and the people say so.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

In previous polls taken after a first year in office following a change of government, the most popular British prime minister until now was jolly old wily Harold Wilson, who scored a 54 percent public approval rating in swinging 1965. Under the same criteria, Clement Atlee rated 53% in 1946, the bulldog Winston Churchill merited 48% in 1952, and Maggie (The Handbag) Thatcher drummed up 41% in 1980.

But now, the contest is over. In 1998, Cool Britannia is still backing Blair by 72%. It is one year since he disemboweled the Conservative Party – in that landslide Labor was 13 percentage points ahead of John Major's Tories. Today it is 29% ahead.

Golden boy

There is a 90% approval for Blair's Northern Ireland policy from all those bloody-minded Britons, 83% of whom also admire his signing up to the European Convention on Human Rights. Even more astonishing, 73% approve of his giving Scotland its own parliament.

As to personal qualities, 93% rate Blair as confident and energetic. 81% think he is a strong prime minister, 77% consider him honest and trustworthy, 71% say "very statesmanlike." Some 70% said he gives the impression of wanting to please everybody – and the pundits say even that they mean as a compliment.

Is this Britain, or is it Iraq? Is this a Saddam Blair in a really true and unbiased public opinion poll? Are poll-takers returning with less than 70% being marched off by Labor Ba'ath firing squads and shot?

The British media, who become deeply disturbed by anything overtly positive, are showing the strain of all this niceness. Desperate political reporters may soon regress to talking out of the sides of their mouths in bars and saying things like "Come on, gimme a break, what gives, no one buys this baloney."

They went wild with delight when they discovered that a cabinet minister was spending $500 a roll on special wallpaper to redecorate his house. At last – scandal, graft, corruption, contempt for the public purse!

In fact, the house is a historic official residence that belongs to the nation anyway.

Paws for pics

The first big scandal of the Blair regime was The Affair of the Cat. The otherwise delightful Cherie Blair was said to be plotting to get rid of the 10 Downing Street cat, Humphrey, another national treasure. Cherie is perfectly honest about it – she's not a cat person, but has nothing personal against the sneeze-inducing flea bags.

It could have brought down an older government, but turned out to be no more than a honeymoon tiff with the nation. Cherie said of course dear Humphrey can stay, and even performed the duty hug-hug on camera.

As our sister newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* delightfully reported: "Mrs. Blair clearly didn't have a clue as to which way up the cat was meant to go, and both lawyer and moggy looked as if they were plugged into the [electricity] mains."

Surely there must be some pockets of dissent, or even downright hatred, for the sheer touchy-feely success of Labor's golden year.

The polls do reveal odd hints of doubt. In the glowing survey of Blair's character, 52% agreed with a statement that he relies too heavily on public relations experts, and 52% agreed with an opinion that he has a somewhat pious and preachy manner.

Blair's babes

Around 36% of Britons are growing sick of the Cool Britannia campaign, just as they did of 1960s Swinging London. Modern Britons have a high tolerance for imported trash and shallow ideas from their trans-Atlantic cousins, but deep down they are still Anglo-Saxon Europeans and finally gag on it – or export Spice Girls in revenge.

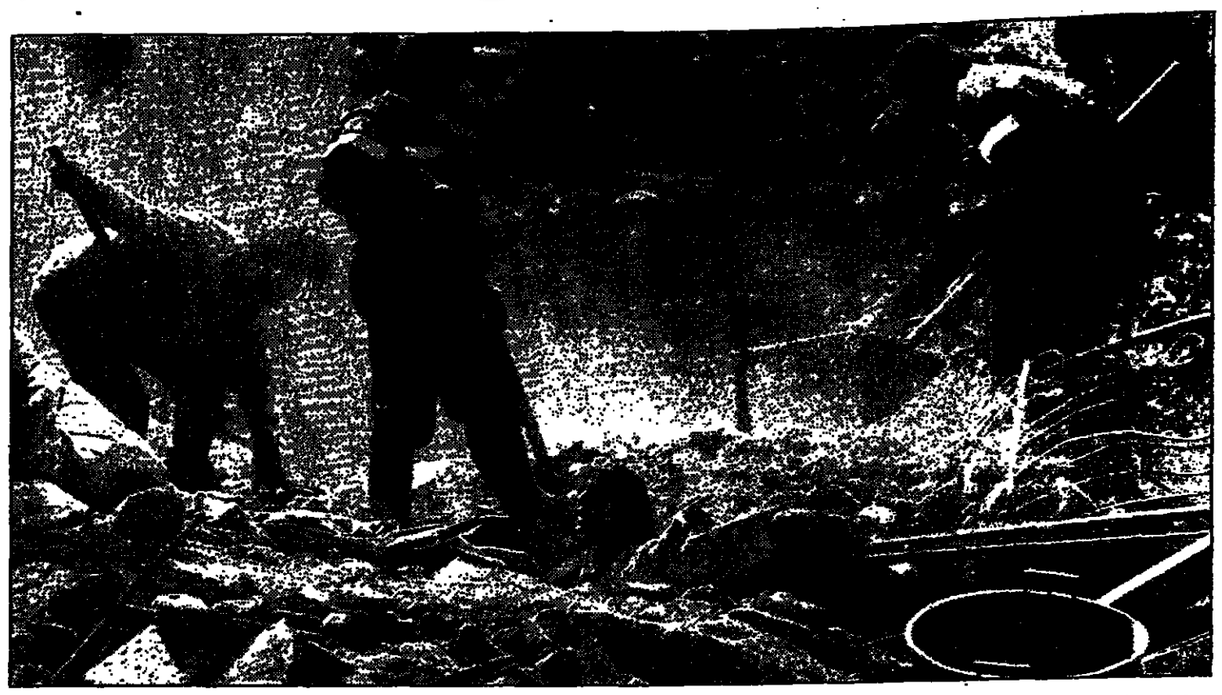
There's a hidden warning there for Blair not to get too carried away with his presidential style of government, a warning that may even be heard rumbling gently on the back benches of the Labor side in parliament. However, there is no trace of a revolt in a party that is still awestruck at the way this young Moses led them out of the wilderness a year ago.

More significant than Blair's astounding personal popularity with the British is the fact that nine cabinet ministers also score above 50% in the polls for doing a good job. Northern Ireland minister Mo Mowlam is rated at 86% for that, and four other ministers rate above 70%.

Mo is not quite what the media had in mind when they named the huge influx of women Labor brought into parliament as "Blair's Babes." But the only person more popular than Blair is this babe.

55 dead, 125 missing in Italy mudslide

By ELEANOR BILES



Relief workers search for missing people yesterday in Sarno after two days of driving rain sent a torrent of mud through low-lying villages in southern Italy. (Reuters)

SARNO (Reuters) - Thousands of rescue workers and soldiers yesterday scoured villages in southern Italy in a desperate search for some 125 people still missing after mudslides turned into rivers of death, killing at least 55 people.

The Interior Ministry's civil protection agency updated the death toll yesterday morning to 55 following the discovery of more victims buried in the flows of mud and rocks that took villages in the Campania region south of Naples by surprise.

Many children were feared to be among the dead and missing.

Around 2,000 people have been left homeless and have been evacuated to other centers. Initial estimates of damage amounted to around 30 trillion lire ($18 billion).

The mudslides are one of the worst natural disasters to hit Italy in years and come just months after three strong earthquakes killed 11 people and left more than 1,000 people homeless in the central region of Umbria.

"The toll of victims in the provinces of Caserta, Avellino and Salerno has risen to 55," an official at the civil protection department said. "There are around 125 missing, but the figure cannot be calculated precisely at the moment."

Days of torrential rain swept mud and topsoil off mountains and hills in the areas affected and combined to create a fast-flowing wave of mud, which some locals have described as similar to lava flows.

Driving rain had stopped and warmer weather had returned to southern Italy yesterday, which may make rescue operations more difficult as the mud begins to harden.

Rescue coordinators dispatched 19 helicopters to fly over the region in search of survivors, who may have been trapped in isolated hamlets after roads were cut off by avalanches.

The rivers of mud that swept away cars, trees and boulders hit the villages of Sarno, Quindici, Bracigliano and Siano hardest.

Sarno has so far suffered the highest toll with 32 dead, a tragedy bound to affect most families in such a small community.

Earth movers and trucks were brought into Sarno, 30 kilometers east of Naples in Salerno province, to help clear one of the main roads in the village where some houses were still swamped in mud and victims were feared buried.

Farmers in the area mobilized to help in the rescue operation as crowds of distraught and weeping villagers waited to discover the fate of relatives, friends and neighbors.

Many women had already donned black clothes in morning.

Three generations of the Amato family living in one of the houses in the main street were still stunned by the disaster.

"I'm over 70 years old and I have never, ever seen anything like this before in my life," one member of the Amato family said.

"How are they ever going to find these people who are still missing?" her daughter asked.

US President Bill Clinton expressed his sorrow over the disaster to Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who is on a visit to Washington.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac meeting in the French town of Avignon also expressed their sympathy in a message to Prodi.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro cut short a state visit to Sweden and returned to Italy last night.

Shock and dismay began turning to bitterness as villagers began to complain about the slow reaction of rescue services to each the region.

Some experts have blamed mass construction, poor infrastructure and lack of planning by local authorities.

"For now we need to alleviate the effects of the tragedy and clear the mudslides away as quickly as possible," Scalfaro said in reaction to the criticism.

One Italian journalist, whose family lives in Sarno, said a rescue operation was organized promptly after last year's earthquake in Umbria, because of the region's historical significance with its Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

But she said a different standard applied to the poorer south of the country.

"In Sarno, we have the small church of San Procolo which no one is bothered about. It took 24 hours for [authorities] to realize the extent of the disaster," Lucia Annunziata said.

Indonesia troops quell Medan riot

By RAJU GOPALAKRISHNAN

MEDAN, Indonesia (Reuters) – Indonesian troop convoys patrolled Medan yesterday in a show of strength after three days of rioting in the North Sumatran capital in which local reports said six people died.

Indonesia's armed forces commander Gen. Wiranto said there had been no deaths.

"So far, nobody died in Medan," he said in reply to reporters' questions after a news conference in Jakarta.

Thousands of students persisted with anti-government demonstrations in Jakarta, the Central Java city of Yogyakarta and the East Java capital of Surabaya.

Riot police used tear gas and rubber bullets when a protest spilled into the streets in south Jakarta, but there were no reports of other trouble.

There were sporadic attempts at looting yesterday in Medan, but the reinforced troop presence prevented a recurrence of the violence which racked the city after the government announced fuel, electricity and transport price increases on Monday.

Truckloads of troops, backed by armored cars and with sirens blaring, patrolled violence-torn areas of the city, while soldiers with automatic rifles and riot shields stood beside gutted shops and the charred shells of burned vehicles.

Many shops were closed but there was no shortage of curious onlookers on the streets, including teenage students with their white shirts painted in bright colors to mark their last day in school before graduation.

Cyprus outlook gloomy after failed talks

ANALYSIS

By PAUL TAYLOR

LONDON (Reuters) – An island that defeats the peace-making energies of American bulldozer Richard Holbrooke is heading for trouble.

Holbrooke, the abrasive diplomat who brokered the 1995 Dayton peace accords to end the war in Bosnia, took time out from his new life as a Wall Street banker to try to revive peace talks on Cyprus.

He admitted failure this week, blaming the Turkish Cypriots' insistence that the world recognize their breakaway republic before they will enter reunification talks with the Greek Cypriot majority.

Holbrooke said the European Union's insensitive treatment of Turkey had contributed to the crisis, but he stressed the Turkish Cypriots' demand that the EU end accession talks with the Cypriot government was not realistic.

"His verdict on the situation seems to have been pretty decisive. I didn't seem to offer much hope," said Prof. Keith Kyle, a veteran British expert on Cyprus.

Holbrooke, who spent three days shuttling across the barbed wire that has separated ethnic Greeks and Turks since 1974, did not give up completely. His assistant, Thomas Miller, will return at the end of the month.

But diplomats say there seems little prospect of breaking the deadlock, which is turning dangerous as the deadline approaches for the deployment of new Russian surface-to-air missiles purchased by the Greek Cypriots.

Russia has said it expects to deliver them in August or September, despite strong US pressure to cancel the deal, which the West fears could trigger a war.

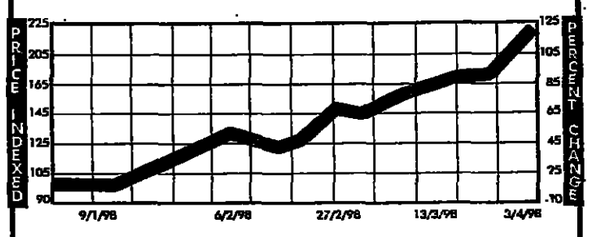
Turkey blames the EU, saying it was wrong to go ahead with membership negotiations with Cyprus dealing only with the Greek Cypriot government.

US and Turkish officials say Ankara would probably be willing to put more pressure on the Turkish Cypriots if its own membership application were put on an equal footing with those of even the least advanced East European candidates — Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia.

The EU decided last December in Luxembourg, driven by Greece and Germany, to put Turkey at the bottom of the candidates' pile in a category of its own, and it is extremely unlikely to change that at its next summit in Cardiff, Wales, next month, diplomats say.

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THE *HAKAMAT MATZEVA* (unveiling) for

RUTH G. CHERNOFSKY ע"נ

will take place on
Friday, May 15, 1998 (19 Iyar 5758) at 10:00 a.m.
at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery (near Beit Shemesh).
Bus leaving Binyenei Ha'uma at 9:30 a.m.
Call 02-651-8831, 538-4206 for details.

Bar-Ilan University
deeply mourns the passing of its founding patron

PHILLIP STOLLMAN ז"ל
of Detroit, Michigan

A man of vision who nurtured the dream of establishing Bar-Ilan University from its earliest days;
first and long-time chairman of the University's Global Board of Trustees and honorary chairman for decades more.

Benefactor of the Stollman Administration Building, Stollman Dormitory, Stollman Laboratory Floor in the Cancer Research Building, and Stollman Garden, together with his late brother Max and sister Frieda.

The Chancellor, Chairman of the Board, President, Rector, Vice Presidents, Director-General, faculty, administrative staff, the entire student body, and the leadership of the American Friends of Bar-Ilan University extend deepest condolences to his children, our dear friends, Gerald and Leila, Rochelle Fang, Shirley Latessa and Annette Stollman-Lancey, his nephews Bernard and Rabbi Samuel and nieces, Barbara and Debra, his grandchildren, and other members of the Stollman family.

Bar-Ilan University's 60 buildings and 70-acre beautiful campus in Israel stand as a living monument to his memory.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing
of our deeply beloved mother, grandmother,
friend and neighbor

JOHANNA (Ping) LAWRENCE

The funeral will take place in Paris, France

The Family and Friends

The Jerusalem Fund for ALYN Society for Handicapped Children
deeply mourns the loss of its
Honorary President and very dear friend

JOHANNA "Ping" LAWRENCE ז"ל

We and the children at ALYN
send our sincere condolences to her family.

Bar-Ilan University
deeply mourns the passing of

LESLIE ZACK ז"ל
of Toronto, Canada
a man dedicated to Jewish continuity and family

The University expresses deepest condolences to his daughter Faygie Schwartz of Toronto, her husband and our dear friend, Phil, President of the Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, his grandson Dr. David Schwartz, of the University's Graduate School of Business Administration, and other members of the family.

In the rebuilding of Zion and Jerusalem shall we be comforted.

In Memoriam

CY TAFF

On the 6th Yahrzeit for Cy Taff, we will never forget his kindness, integrity, love of mankind and sense of humor. "He left us with a song on his lips and in his heart." We'll always miss him.

Gits and children:
Zeev & Edna Taff • Rabbi Reuven Taff & Judy
Janie & Moni Chocron • Seven wonderful grandchildren

On the thirtieth day after the passing of

OFRA REISMAN ז"ל

those who cherish her memory are invited to an evening in her memory, to be held at the family residence at 5 Rehov Hasatat, Jerusalem, on Tuesday, May 12, 1998 at 7 p.m.
We shall visit the grave at 5 p.m.

The Family

On the *shloshim* after the passing of our beloved

YEHUDA GAULAN ז"ל

we will hold an unveiling of the tombstone at the Sanhedria Cemetery on Tuesday, May 12, 1998 at 5 p.m.

We wish to thank all those who made condolence visits or expressed their sympathy in writing.

Sarah and Tamar Gaulan

TECHNION
ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

1998 International Board of Governors

BOG 1998 - Program Highlights

Saturday, May 9, 1998

9:30 a.m. Host Faculty Symposium: Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning
- "Israel 2020: A Master Plan for Israel in the 21st Century"
  With Prof. Rachelle Alterman, Mr. Jonathan Golani, Prof. Robert Oxman, Dr. Michelle Sofer, Prof. Dan Zaslavsky
  Dan Carmel Hotel

8:45 p.m.
- Technion Medal Award Ceremony and President's Reception
  Churchill Plaza

Sunday, May 10, 1998

12:00 noon Ceremony marking the establishment of the
- Bertoldo Badler Academic Chair
- Albert A. Kaufman Fund for Postdoctoral Fellowships

Benjamin Auditorium, Segoe Building

8:30 p.m.
- Festive Opening and Honorary Fellows Award Ceremony
  "Technion Salute to Israel at 50" - Pageant

Churchill Auditorium

Monday, May 11, 1998

11:00 a.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- Anna Tulin Elyachar Information Center

Elyachar Central Library

12:00 noon Awards Ceremony
- Muriel and David Jacknow Awards for Excellence in Teaching
- Salomon Simon Mani Awards for Excellence in Teaching
- Hershel Rich Innovation Awards
- Henry Taub Prizes for Excellence in Research

Butler Auditorium, S. Neaman Institute

2:00 p.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- Auditorium in memory of Charles and Sally Drimer - Australian Technion Society
- MEP XIX Women's Division/ATS Hannah and George Krumholz Advanced Microscopy Laboratory II

Faculty of Chemical Engineering

8:30 p.m. Honorary Doctorates Award Ceremony
Churchill Auditorium

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

11:30 a.m. Groundbreaking ceremony for the
- Yitzhak Rabin Civil Engineering Building

Near the Sherman Building, Civil Engineering

1:30 p.m. Ceremony dedicating the
- Albert A. Kaufman Floor

Ullmann Teaching Center

2:15 p.m. Ceremony dedicating
- Shirvan/ Project Ezekiel for Students with Disabilities

At the plaza near the Ullmann Teaching Center

7:30 p.m.
- Students' Salute to the BOG

Technion Pool Grounds

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

2:30 p.m. Ceremony for the
- Eve Topf Neurodegenerative Diseases Research and Teaching Center

Rappaport Medical Sciences Building, Haifa

Congratulations to Award Recipients

Technion Medal Awards



Bruce Rappaport
Switzerland



Henry Taub
USA

Honorary Doctor of Science - Doctor Scientiarum Honoris Causa



Prof. Haim Brezis
France



Prof. Rudolph A. Marcus
USA

Honorary Doctor - Doctor Honoris Causa



Frederick R. Adler
USA



Ted Arison
Israel



Justice Aharon Barak
Israel



Dr. Christian Hodler
Germay



Hershel Rich
USA

Harvey Prize Laureates



Prof. Richard Karp
USA



Prof. K. Barry Sharpless
USA

Honorary Fellows



Joseph Freed
USA



Tamara Handelsman
USA



Philip E. Klein
USA



Elisha Yanay
Israel



Yehuda Zisapel
Israel

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Unpalatable threats

President Bill Clinton strenuously denies the United States has handed Israel an ultimatum. "There's no way in the world I could impose an agreement on [the parties]... they have to live with the consequences," Clinton said on Wednesday. Yet there is no escaping that the US has threatened to end its current mediating role and blame Israel for the collapse of the peace process if its proposals are not accepted. Now, ironically, the main thing wrong with the American proposal is not any of its particulars, but the perception that it is being forced on Israel.

Judging simply from its terms, the US proposal would be considered highly pro-Israel from the perspective of one or two years ago. The Palestinian opening idea for the scope of all three redeployments – to be completed before final-status talks began – was about 90 percent of the West Bank.

The Rabin government was reportedly aiming to keep its withdrawals under the redeployments limited to about 50 percent. Under the US proposal, the third redeployment would be handled by a joint committee, and presumably be put aside until the outcome of the final-status talks is much clearer. If Israel now withdraws from 13 percent of the West Bank as the US suggests, then the total pre-final-status withdrawal will amount to some 40 percent of the West Bank.

In addition to allowing Israel to significantly beat pre-Netanyahu expectations on the territorial front, the US proposal incorporates a critical Israeli improvement over previous withdrawals: reciprocity. For the first time, a territorial withdrawal will be phased, with each phase linked to Palestinian compliance with unfulfilled provisions of the Oslo Accords. The Palestinians have shown a remarkable ability to sell the same commitments over and over again; but if this time the promises are implemented, it will signal a victory for the Netanyahu government.

Despite the general attractiveness of the US proposal, the fact that it has been wrapped in threats and deadlines renders it unpalatable. No country, much less one such as Israel that is entering some of the most critical negotiations in its history, can be seen as accepting foreign dictates. The acceptance of an American number, on an American date, under threat of an American "reassessment" creates a precedent for final-status talks that is unacceptable to Israel.

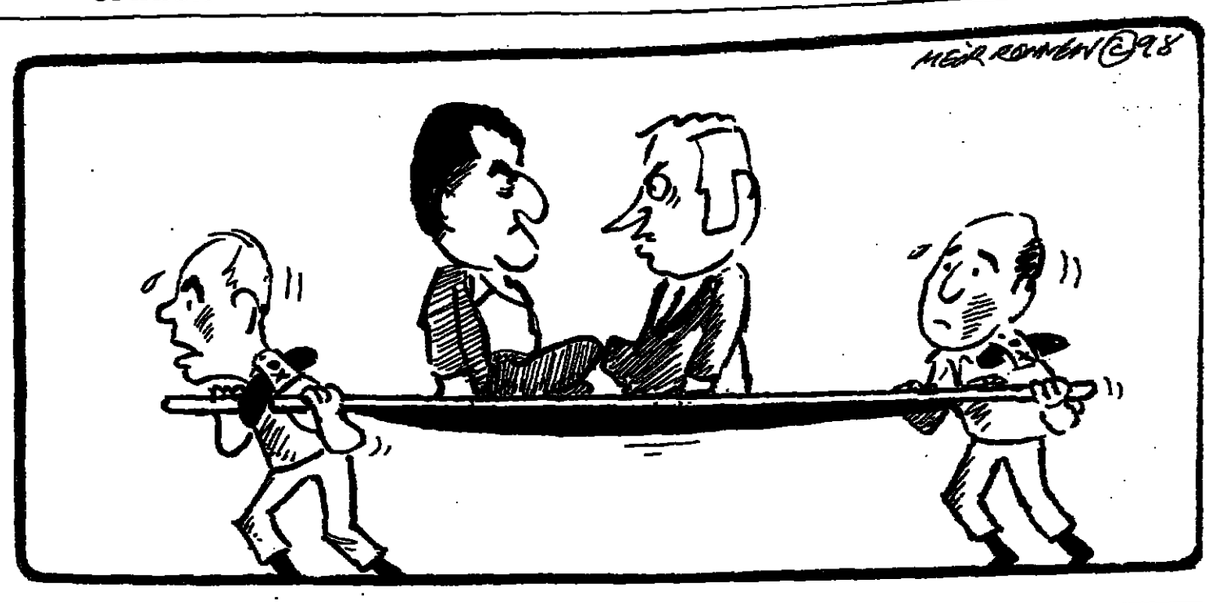
Such strong-arm tactics would never have been used by the US in the Northern Ireland negotiations, which were no less difficult and contentious. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a key player in those talks, has implied that the US should not consider every detail of its proposal to be written in stone. Blair, perhaps because he has been on the other side, realizes that it is counterproductive to paint Israel into a corner.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, on the other hand, seems to have become too wrapped up in a prestige contest with Netanyahu. The objective of the negotiations should not be to bend Israel to the US will, but to bend the parties toward each other. US prestige will be measured by whether it succeeds in brokering an agreement, not by whether or not it successfully dictated terms to Israel.

Though diplomatic circles might cheer, the US itself will likely regret any "victory" based upon dictating to Israel. The message sent will be the opposite of Washington's declared and correct policy: that the key to peace is direct negotiations between the parties. The message that direct talks are the key has become so distorted by the current depth of US involvement, that it will be difficult to reconstruct it in any case. That task, however, will be greatly complicated if the US is seen to be imposing its will down to the last tenth of a percentage point.

Today, US mediator Dennis Ross arrives at Netanyahu's request, to make one last push before the US-proposed meeting in Washington next week. The task before both Ross and Netanyahu should be to construct creative ways to stay within the framework proposed by the US and satisfy Israel's security needs.

Since Israel is a democracy, the involvement of the cabinet cannot be treated as some illegitimate obstacle to be overcome. But neither should Netanyahu hide behind cabinet hawks in order to drag out talks unnecessarily. With a bit more work and creativity, it should be possible to hammer out something acceptable to both Israel and the United States, and through them, the Palestinians.



Netanyahu's new opponent

NAOMI CHAZAN

Prime Minister Netanyahu has chosen a new opponent: the United States. Over the course of the past 18 months, he has done virtually everything in his power to try the patience and undermine the goodwill of the present administration in Washington. He has annoyed, taunted, challenged, prevaricated, and even attempted to humiliate President Clinton.

The list of Netanyahu's acts of Clinton-baiting is almost legion.

Suffice to recall some of the highlights: He has repeatedly broken promises to the president, thereby compromising the US relationship with important partners (most notably King Hussein); he has initiated highly controversial settlements, principally at Har Homa and Ras el Amud; he has flamboyantly embraced leaders of the American religious Right who stand behind the Clinton impeachment campaign (Jerry Falwell is but one example); he has engaged in flagrant lobbying on Capitol Hill against administration policy; and just this week, he pointedly aggravated the secretary of state in London yet again after a monumental American effort to get the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations back on track.

What does Netanyahu hope to achieve by provoking Israel's closest (some say only) ally?

Ostensibly, the prime minister's aim is to reduce so-called American pressure on Israel at the most critical moments of the fraying Oslo framework. Perhaps his objective is even deeper; many suspect that his goal is to thwart the process in its entirety.

If this mission requires calling the negotiating capabilities of the United States into question and thus undermining American credibility, so be it.

Netanyahu thinks that this gambit can succeed partly because of the precariousness of President Clinton's position on the domestic front.

He can also rely on a growing disinterest for Israel's predicament among large segments of the American Jewish community which has, to put it mildly, become increasingly alienated from Israel over the conversion bill and other issues.

And he is banking on the Israeli opposition's preoccupation with internal matters such as religion and state and the high rate of unemployment, as well as on the Israeli public's knee-jerk reaction to the threat of external interference, to temper domestic reactions.

Since the Arabs and Israel cannot resolve the current situation on their own, objection to US involvement is akin to inviting a rekindling of violence and possibly even new forms of confrontation in the region

ONCE again, the prime minister is exhibiting a dangerous short-sightedness which threatens to sacrifice fundamental Israeli interests on the altar of ephemeral gains.

First of all, Netanyahu systematically confuses foreign involvement with external pressure.

International involvement in the Middle East peace process, and especially direct American engagement, has been a cornerstone of every peace treaty Israel has signed with its neighbors.

This was true of the Camp David Accords, the Oslo initiative to date, and the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. It would be foolhardy to even suggest that a viable peace with the Palestinians (not to mention Syria or Lebanon) can be concluded without the good offices and guarantees furnished by the United States.

Israel and its Arab neighbors have not in the past, and cannot today, reach an agreement without the active participation of a third party, and the United States continues to be the only country interested in and capable of carrying out this role.

Secondly, Netanyahu is purposely promoting international disinterest in the peace process. The cost to Israel of such neglect and potential abandonment, however, is enormous.

Since the Arabs and Israel cannot resolve the current situation on their own, objection to US involvement is akin to inviting a rekindling of violence and possibly even new forms of confrontation in the region.

For this reason, the undoubtedly well-intentioned Mack-Lieberman letter sponsored by 81 senators may unfortunately be a misplacement of energy and effort. By calling for the US to relinquish its 30-year role as the Middle East peace broker, this appeal to the president may actively legitimate a trend of disengagement which could, in the end, imperil Israel.

Third, in pursuing this policy, Netanyahu appears willing to pay the price of Israeli isolation in the global arena.

In an interdependent world in which Israel's economic and political well-being rely on its interaction with other states, reviving the old adage of standing alone against a hostile world smacks of sheer bravado as well as insufferable arrogance. More specifically, it counteracts Israel's vital long-term interests.

Fourth, if Netanyahu persists in goading the US, he runs the risk of eroding the longstanding US-Israel relationship. The significance of this link cannot be underestimated. Beyond the political and economic protection this relationship has provided to Israel over the years, it has extended to Israel a moral umbrella that is irreplaceable.

Endangering this tie demonstrates both ingratitude and downright irresponsibility.

And finally, while Netanyahu constantly claims to be struggling to safeguard Israel's security, his tampering with the US-Israel alliance may adversely affect that which he claims to be defending.

The probability that the Palestinians will unilaterally declare a Palestinian state on May 4, 1999, underscores the urgency of reaching a negotiated settlement within the next year.

If the US role is constantly questioned by Israel and the prospects of success seem dim, the US, with little incentive to bring about an agreement, may seek alternate routes to secure its interests in the region. This could leave Israel exposed to long-term and long-range threats. Only Israel will suffer the consequences and all of the violence that such a scenario would entail.

Binyamin Netanyahu, for all his supposed familiarity with American life, is playing with fire.

To put Israel on a collision course with the United States is both inherently self-defeating and practically counterproductive. Despite Bibi, the majority of Israelis welcome American involvement in the peace process and recognize the tremendous effort the US has invested in bringing about peace in this region.

They do not want to live the nightmare of neglect, nor do they relish the notion of isolation. Prime Minister Netanyahu: Take these thoughts into account before you decide whether to travel to Washington next week. And to the United States we say: Keep caring, we need you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAHAL SNUB

Sir, – On May 3, after visiting Naval and Air Force bases, we were given a tour of Haifa by the municipality.

This was to have been followed by a reception with Mayor Amram Mitzna greeting the Mahalniks. Notwithstanding that this event was planned several months ago, the mayor did not find the time to make an appearance and instead sent a deputy.

This was a definite snub to Mahal members. It was a great mistake that the chairman of World Mahal presented the Mahal flag and medal to Mitzna through his representative.

LESLIE M. RAYNER,
Mahal UK.
Tel Aviv.

PRESSURE LIVNAT

Sir, – Re Yossi Olmert's article "Bring back Channel 16" (May 5).

I would like to congratulate him on taking up our cause. Olmert expresses my sentiments exactly, and I cannot help feeling that the TV cable companies are a law unto themselves.

I cannot tell you how many people called to complain but no reasonable reason for the cancellation was given.

As the companies have a monopoly, and we the viewers have no say in what is screened, we must rely on the authorities to control the cable companies. This responsibility falls squarely on Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

Yossi Olmert is correct. We must pressure the minister to help our cause.

STEPHEN WEIL
Ra'anana

FAMILY SPIRIT

Sir, – Living through the current peaking of the *Jubilee Bells* reminds me of a dilemma my aunt, famed for her spicy Middle Eastern cooking, faced some time ago when she had to host an important dinner for in-laws who liked only the blandest of bland food.

I personally witnessed how her face fell when she finally realized that most of her repertoire would be unacceptable and witnessed too the scorn the family hotheads poured on those lovers of boiled potatoes.

My wise aunt, valuing togetherness more than culinary or ethnic pride, was not above accepting the challenge of the occasion and set about compiling a menu of food which would be enjoyed by all her guests even if it meant turning her back for that once on her lovely spices. That meal's success has become a family legend.

I cannot help wishing that just a little bit of my aunt's spirit could have been present among the organizers of, and participants in, our jubilee programs.

CELIA ULANOVSKY
Ginot Shomron.

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Sir, – Before we came on aliya, one of our pleasures was to attend performances of Israeli dance troupes. Their costuming and choice of melody very much enhanced their performances.

Surely folk dancing is far more representative of Israel's 50 years than the Batsheva Dance Troupe. Israeli folk dancing is still thriving here in Israel.

Too bad that this segment of the Jubilee celebration was relegated to the credits part of the program.

Somebody goofed.

MIMI HERSHKOWITZ
Rehovot.

'GHETTO JEW'

Sir, – Antisemitism has traditionally reared its ugly head in two contradictory ways. On one hand, whenever Jews live behind the "ghetto walls," they are accused of being separate, apart, so different.

On the other, when they emerge into the world at large, they are persecuted for being too successful, for being too smart. And they are said to be "pushy."

Unfortunately, haredi bashing has become less than rare in your newspaper. However, not every barb can elicit response. Still, I feel compelled to protest the otherwise fine satirical piece by Amotz Asa-El "The check list" in your Independence Day edition. This is because I believe he crosses the fine line which exists between criticism and bigotry.

In one sentence, he calls Meir Porush a "ghetto Jew." This flattery is no doubt bestowed for no reason other than the subject's fidelity to the lifestyle which he inherited from his long line of religious ancestors.

That makes him different; that makes him a "ghetto Jew." Yet, in that very same line, Asa-El decries how he "pushes his way to the fore." Damned if you do, damned if you don't.

If the haredi doesn't participate in memorial services, it shows that he doesn't mourn our war dead. But if he goes, he is being pushy!

It's one thing when haredim are bashed. It is much worse when it's done with antisemitic tactics. This is prime usage of the aforementioned phenomena! Get them when they are different, and get them when they 'push.' Only here, even the "ghetto Jew" is accused of being pushy!

PAYSACH FREEDMAN
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On May 8, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Palestine-British trade had largely benefitted at Germany's expense.

Wholesalers reported the aversion of their customers for "Made in Germany" goods. Machinery required by the busy building trade, for which Germany was always favored, was ordered elsewhere even if the prices were higher.

25 years ago: On May 8, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the most elaborately organized festivity in Israel's history – the 25th Independence Day military parade - was staged in Jerusalem with clockwork precision. Some 300,000 people jammed the Capital to see the parade.

Alexander Zvielli

Much ado about nothing

MOSHE ARENS

What stranger to Israel could possibly understand it? What Israel, a few months from now, will be able to explain it?

An Israel seemingly divided at the very peak of its jubilee independence celebrations because the Batsheva Dance Company insisted that unless they could strip down to their underwear during their dance routine they were not going to perform at the *Jubilee Bells* show on Independence day.

The dancers rejected the compromise suggested by President Weizman during day-long negotiations that they wear long underwear and canceled their performance. All this could and should have been treated as a joke, but instead it was immediately elevated into a national debate on artistic freedom, censorship, religious coercion, separation between religion and state; in short, a veritable Kulturkampf.

The part of Israel's society that seems to have an inexplicable distaste for the Jewish religion had suddenly found a cause around which they could rally. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo did not do his reputation any good by connecting the foundation of his new political party to this inconsequential event.

The facts are that neither theater, opera, nor dance are censored in Israel. The particular dance in question has already been presented by the Batsheva company 150 times in Israel, including the controversial scene. The only lingering question is who was the dimwit that decided to include this particular ballet in the *Jubilee Bells* show.

But there are some among us who do not want to be confused by the facts. Anointing themselves as the defenders of our civil liberties, they are aching for a knock-down drag-out fight with the religious segment of Israel's society.

As far as they are concerned any excuse will do. They prefer to disregard the fact that although the majority of Israelis are secular, the religious constitute a very substantial part of Israeli society.

What could and should have been treated as a joke instead was immediately elevated into a national debate on artistic freedom, censorship, religious coercion, separation between religion and state; in short, a veritable Kulturkampf

Moreover, even secular Israelis must be aware that it was the Jewish religion, and particularly the strict observance of its commandments, that kept the Jewish people alive during years of dispersion and persecution, making it possible to reestablish a Jewish State after 2,000 years.

Even now in the Diaspora, it is religious observance – especially the Orthodox observance of the the Jewish religion – that constitutes the barrier to assimilation. It would seem that the feelings and sensibilities of our religious compatriots are deserving of the respect of all.

THIS is not to say that there are not some serious issues concerning the relationship of the Orthodox religious establishment and the state that are in need of attention and ultimately of resolution.

Firstly, the application of universal military service to yeshiva students. The large-scale exemptions from military service granted to yeshiva students are unjustifiable by any measure and are the cause of much of the resentment among secular Israelis towards the Orthodox community.

No such exemptions from military service were ever requested by Orthodox Jews, nor granted, in the United States or Europe in time of war. But in Israel a political arrangement made 50 years ago, encompassing at the time a few hundred yeshiva students, has burgeoned into a phenomenon of mass evasion from military service by tens of thousands of young Orthodox men every year.

Coalition politics, important as they may be, will not be accepted by most of Israel's citizens as an adequate excuse for this continuing abuse of the norms of justice.

Secondly, the hard-line position of the rabbinical establishment toward conversion. It is preventing the integration of tens of thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, the offspring of mixed marriages, into Israeli society.

It is discouraging the immigration of many more from Russia and Ukraine. And it is leading to a gradual estrangement of most of American Jewry from Israel. The result is damaging to the Jewish people and the Jewish State. Hopefully our rabbis will recognize this before it is too late.

The resolution of these issues should be pursued with understanding and patience. Rather than forcing the issue we should seek agreement. But it is essential that such agreement be reached soon.

POSTSCRIPT

IF ALL went according to plan, the toaster designed by students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison would heave two pieces of bread hard enough to trigger a contraption made of pots, pans and pulleys.

The purpose? To hit the snooze button on an alarm clock.

If that sounds absurd, then it's just what judges at the 10th annual National Rube Goldberg Machine Contest wanted.

The event gets its name from the famous cartoonist known for drawing vastly complicated machines that performed simple tasks.

Every year, students from schools across the United States pool their talents and imaginations to keep Goldberg's spirit alive by designing well-oiled models of immense inefficiency.

Six schools were represented at Purdue University, the school that began hosting the event in 1988.

This years task was to create something to shut off a snooze button.

About 500 people, mainly wide-eyed kids, came to see science at its silliest.

The toaster performed with great precision, but a group of aerospace engineering students from the University of Texas at Austin managed to come out on top for the second year in a row. "Spaceship Goldberg" went through 40 separate steps before it successfully shut off a beeping alarm clock.

The steps included a bubbling water tower that pushed a float up to trip a lever, a MROUS (Mars Rodent of Unusual Size) trap that whacked a twirling weight, and a Mars Sojourner Rover that triggered the

הכל מן האינטרנט

Batsheva uncovered

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

The only winners from the controversy over the Batsheva Dance Troupe's non-performance at the Independence Day celebrations, it now seems, are the citizens of Tel Aviv. Having flopped as mayor, Ronni Milo lifted a page from Haim Ramon's book and sought a face-saving way of walking away from his failures.

Shamelessly fanning the Batsheva hullabaloo was his chosen means. If all goes according to plan, Milo will use the threat of being a potential spoiler to jump to the near the top of the Labor Party pyramid before the next elections.

The *Jubilee Bells* uproar is, however, a pathetic hobbyhorse for slick opportunists like Milo and crazed ideologues like Am Hofshi's Oman Yekutieli to sally forth into battle against the dark forces of religion and declare a battle to the death with the haredim. Whatever else the controversy may be about, it is not about freedom of speech, government censorship of the arts, or Judaism's status as the official state religion.

Nor, incidentally, does it have much to do with the haredim.

The Batsheva company has been performing the controversial piece for more than four years, and not one finger was lifted to stop it. Anyone eager to see what the company has to offer remains perfectly free to plunk down their money and do so. Far from censoring the company, the government subsidizes it to the tune of nearly $1.5 million annually.

Neither the Batsheva company, nor anyone else, had a right to one of the limited spots on the Independence Day podium. Freedom of thought and expression bars the government from intruding into a person's mind and preventing him from expressing his opinions. It does not, however, give one the power to force others to listen or guarantee a particular forum. One cannot, for instance, blare forth from a sound truck at 4 a.m. in residential neighborhoods.

Insistence that the material to be included in the Independence Day festivities be religiously and politically non-controversial and inoffensive was perfectly appropriate for ceremonies meant to foster national unity. That would be true, even if Judaism were not Israel's official religion.

The Batsheva controversy is not about freedom of speech, government censorship of the arts, or Judaism's status as the official state religion

The separation of state and religion is nearly absolute in America, and yet that separation provides no license to stomp on the religious sensibilities of American citizens. If anything, American politicians and government officials are hypersensitive to perceived slights to even the tiniest minority, and it is inconceivable that any national figure would ever mock the strongly held beliefs of a large segment of the population. (This point is completely lost on dance lover Rafael Eitan, who claims that the Batsheva cancellation reveals the need for a formal separation of state and religion in Israel.)

THE Independence Day festivities were clearly not designed to provide a forum for one segment of the population to express its contempt for another. Yet the intended Batsheva performance was sure to offend – indeed it was intended to do so. Those likely to be deeply offended by both the form and content of the performance went far beyond the horrible haredim, who, in any event, were not likely to be present in great numbers. It is an insult to the principles of the national religious population to suggest that its politicians were intimidated by the haredim into protesting semi-nudity at a national ceremony with many children watching.

Even more offensive than the form of the performance was its implicit message. The disrobing from hassidic garb to underwear, performed to the tune of one of the most beloved Seder songs, "Who knows one... One is our God," conveyed a clear message: Hurray for the state, which has allowed us to cast off our Diaspora religion and return to our essential animal selves.

While many haredim might agree that Zionism was a pretext for destroying Judaism, how would this message have been greeted by religious Zionists, for whom the creation of the state represents the first flowering of the redemption?

Imagine that instead of scoffing at Judaism, the Batsheva troupe had chosen to show the Israeli flag with a swastika on it or Israeli soldiers as concentration camp guards to make some point or other about our lost soul and oppression of the Palestinians. Such a performance would have been immediately recognized as inappropriate birthday party fare, no matter how many in the avant-garde art world do, in fact, subscribe to such sentiments. No one would be prattling on about freedom of artistic expression or speech.

In typically overheated fashion, Shulamit Aloni screams "of cultural dictatorship, of clerical censorship, and of no freedom of expression." (She, for one, never seems to have a problem making herself heard.) But the real problem is almost exactly the opposite: the Left's desire to monopolize all the means of communication. Freedom of speech and artistic expression are mere smoke screens.

Since the advent of the Right in 1996, the Israel Broadcasting Authority has been virtually enemy-controlled territory as far as the government is concerned. And those who wrap themselves in the banner of freedom of expression are perfectly content with this situation. Far from believing in the free market of ideas, they have made the shutting down of Arutz 7 and various pirate radio stations that present other points of view a top priority.

The Left doesn't even bother to hide that its real objection to Arutz 7 and the pirates is their religious and political views, and not the loss of government licensing fees. Those for whom Abie Nathan was a cultural icon cannot reconcile themselves to successors with a different viewpoint.

Now if the Arutz 7 staff could only dance....



Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Dancing with wolves

By 1826 an extensively traveled, twice-divorced, and soon-to-die William Hazlitt had been through so much travail that a spider crawling on his carpet made him "hate the very sight of it."

Hatred seemed to the timeless British essayist so "immortal" that he concluded – in the premature twilight of his 52-year-long life – that he hated himself "for not having hated and despised the world enough."

In our country he would probably harbor no such remorse. If anything, Hazlitt's "On the Pleasure of Hating" reads these days as if it were written in the shadows of our very own ranting dancers, fuming mayors, and grudge-bearing retired generals.

The Batsheva troupe and the rest of the artistic community rose this week to the cause of underwear with the enthusiasm, passion, and conviction of life-risking refuseniks victimized by tyrannical regimes.

Batsheva forgot that their entire troupe - just like haredi yeshivot - is a largely tax-payer funded gig.

What they forgot is that they cannot purport to have been "censored" while they can – and do – appear whenever and wherever their natural audiences and sponsors cater for them to do so. Apparently, what stunned Batsheva was the rare cross-cultural encounter with those parts of Israel which are not of their ilk.

The thought that a state-funded ceremony aimed at the entire public is not exclusively theirs to choreograph clearly never occurred to the dancers and their maestro, whose quintessentially Shenkinite spectacles, hairdo, and bristles could only enhance an already solid media status as a cultural martyr.

Evidently, what fueled this outpouring of self-indulgence was a deep-seated hatred; in this case, hatred of haredim. Yet while insisting on shoving their somewhat esoteric numbers into middle-brow Israel's living rooms, they forgot that their entire troupe – just like haredi yeshivot – is a largely tax-payer funded gig. How ironic.

It's one thing to scold the haredim for contributing less to, and taking more from, the national safe; it's an entirely different thing to ignore their pain and blaspheme their beliefs, like an underdressed dance to the tune of "One is our God" surely would. Had such an intolerant idea been touted, let alone exercised, in, say, the American bicentennial or in Germany's unification festivities, wouldn't we all have shaken heaven and earth?

Evidently, our bohemians don't know what true liberalism is, that which was so well-phrased 80 years ago by American thinker Horace Kallen, who substituted that turn-of-the-century quasi-fascist notion of the melting pot with the symphony-of-diversities ideal of cultural pluralism. Now we too can say, like Hazlitt, that after having been taught to think "that genius was not a bawd, virtue was not a mask, liberty was not a name, and that love had its seat in the human heart," we might as well "care little if these words were struck out of the dictionary."

AS THE beauty of hatred goes, our haredi-bashers' self-appointed leader's own hatred – while no less fierce, potent, or genuine than his gullible flock's – is rooted far from his followers' ideology, and deep in his own opportunistic agenda.

For Ronni Milo, the ultimate anti-Christ is personal obscurity. "If I lose," he must have told himself, "I won't even pass for an ornament in some obscure community channel's Saturday morning talk show. And even if I win, this pilot-idealist Huldai guy is likely play that merit-and-dedication card where I have so little to offer, and leave me with a Pyrrhic victory; what do I then end up with – an annual interview on *Mabat* about Tel Aviv's garbage piles, Saturday shopping, and sclerotic traffic arteries? No, not that! I must be on the air every week, every night, and be asked not about parking spaces, kindergartens, and subways, but about the grand military-diplomatic-economic 'situation,' and tell this whole country where it must go. The last thing I now need is for Tel Aviv to tell me where to go.

"Ah, blackish, chilly, and turbulent though they are, I must jump into those mysterious waters down there, and now. Brrr, forget the passengers stranded on that municipal *Titanic*, just look ahead and feel the dazzle, warmth, and glitter of those cameras and lights.

"Good move, Ronni," concluded the soon-to-be former mayor in a deep-of-the-lungs shout a-la *Seinfeld*'s George Costanza, as the press converged on the new false messiah. "We're b-a-c-k in business!"

While other mayors – most notably Jerusalem's – also harbor Milo's hatred for marginality and graze our municipal pastures mainly in search of a springboard for a much more manifest destiny, some politicians manage to keep their hatred within the ordinary confines of that personal resentment with which most of us are so intimately familiar.

Such is the story of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's evident abhorrence of CGS contender Matan Vilna'i.

"I just can't stand him!" one can almost hear the ordinarily reserved minister muttering while pacing back and forth in his bureau like a lion in his den, amid the familiar display of trophies, medals, and awards collected in the course of an elaborate military career cut short by Vilna'i's appointment as deputy CGS. Never mind that we the people deserve the most experienced, seasoned, and savvy contender at the IDF's helm. "Without something to hate," as Hazlitt put it, "we should lose the very spring of thought and action."

And yet, with all due respect to hatred, Hazlitt ultimately lamented the success of "hypocrisy, servility, folly, and impudence, while merit is trodden under foot." So should we.

Tragedy or farce

MARK A. HELLER

It is getting harder and harder to know whether the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is tragedy or farce. It's probably a bit of both, but the evidence this week favors Option 2, because all the learned commentaries about what the London meeting does or does not mean cannot disguise the growing absurdity of the situation.

Consider the following:

1) The central issue in the current impasse is the size of Israel's second West Bank redeployment. There has been no first redeployment.

2) According to Israel's interpretation of the Interim Agreement, it is entitled to decide unilaterally from how much territory it will redeploy.

3) Nevertheless, Israel is negotiating this redeployment. And it is negotiating not with the Palestinians but with the United States, the very same country whose secretary of state last year endorsed the Israeli interpretation.

4) The United States, though negotiating with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians, has proposed a redeployment of 13.1% – a figure much closer to Israel's original offer than to the original Palestinian demand. Yet the Palestinians have accepted the proposal and Israel has not.

5) The whole world already knows about this proposal, but the US administration has toyed with the idea of making it public in order to pressure Israel to accept it.

6) There is more opposition to this idea in the American Congress than there is in the Israeli Knesset.

7) So far, Israel has resisted the American proposal on the grounds that while 9% is prudent and 10-11% might be tolerable, 13% represents an unacceptable risk to Israeli security. It is not easy to understand what the critical difference is, because no one outside the negotiating rooms (and maybe not even inside) knows exactly which two, three or four percent are at stake.

This even makes it possible to argue that the same redeployment would be both 13% (of Area C) and 9% (of the West Bank). Nevertheless, Prime Minister Netanyahu insists that the difference is crucial.

8) At the same time, Netanyahu has repeatedly urged the Palestinians to begin permanent status negotiations, while promising Israeli voters that he will safeguard Israeli security. Will more than 13% in a final agreement not endanger Israeli security, or does this imply a permanent status map of somewhere between 11% and 13%?

9) At this point, the Palestinians refuse to enter permanent status negotiations, although such negotiations were supposed to have begun as soon as possible after the start of the interim period and not later than May 1996 (when a ceremonial session was actually held). This is ostensibly in order to deny Israel the pretext of bypassing a third redeployment, although there is no reason why Yasser Arafat could not do what Yitzhak Shamir admitted he intended to do at Madrid – negotiate inconclusively for years.

All the learned commentaries about what the London meeting does or does not mean cannot disguise the growing absurdity of the situation

10) Meanwhile, Arafat insists that he is not asking for the moon, only that Israel implement the agreements it has already signed. But Israel has never undertaken any commitment about the specific extent of redeployment.

11) Netanyahu is also constrained by coalition considerations. If he gives in on 13%, the hard-line right-wingers have threatened to bring down the government and give Labor and the Left a chance to return to power. For some reason, Netanyahu appears to take this threat seriously, at any rate, far more seriously than the threat of Defense Minister Mordechai or The Third Way to leave the government if he does not carry out a second redeployment.

12) Even if the right-wing threat were serious, Netanyahu could still placate his coalition critics if the Americans persuade the Palestinians to offer a quid pro quo for a Netanyahu concession on territory – by promising again to do the things they already promised to do in the Declaration of Principles, the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, the Cairo Agreement and the Hebron Agreement.

13) In addition to recycled carrots, there is much speculation about recycled sticks. If Netanyahu does not agree to an acceptable redeployment before the interim period expires in May 1999, the Palestinians are threatening to do again what they already did in Algiers over 10 years ago – make a unilateral declaration of independence.

14) The announced invitation to Netanyahu and Arafat to come to Washington next week was immediately described as "make or break." The same thing was being said the last time Netanyahu and Arafat were in Washington – but that time, Monica Lewinsky got in the way.

15) If Netanyahu and Arafat do go to the White House, the visit will probably be the "last chance" for the peace process, which is why they probably won't go unless a deal has been worked out in advance.

16) But if they nevertheless go and President Clinton cannot announce an agreement, then things will get very nasty for a while, tensions will rise, and some more blood may be shed. Then there will be another high-level diplomatic intervention and another "last chance."

17) After one short visit to Cyprus last week by US special negotiator Richard Holbrooke, the Cyprus peace process was declared dead. Greeks, Turks and Cypriots of all persuasions still have a lot to learn.

Washington knows best?

GERALD M. STEINBERG

The US government is more involved than ever in determining the future of Israeli security and the nature of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. The formal statements regarding the need for the parties to decide on their own are no longer credible. Instead, the continued pressure in London, and perhaps Washington again next week, is aimed at forcing Binyamin Netanyahu to accept the State Department's views of what is best for Israel.

After the London summit, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright repeated the claim that it was "obviously up to the Israelis to decide what their security requirements are." However, after this ritual statement, she presented her true view that "we have come up with ideas which are fair and balanced and do not threaten Israel's security."

In the disagreements over the definition of "fair", "balanced", and most importantly, "non-threatening to Israel security", the US does not hesitate to give its own interpretations precedence over those of the elected leaders of the Israeli government.

After having logged so many hours, perhaps US envoy Dennis Ross and Albright do think they know better than the Israeli government. In any case, as the world's only superpower, with the responsibility of preserving international stability and peace, American involvement is important and pressure may be justifiable in some circumstances.

However, if the US officials, whom we do not elect, have assumed such a role, they owe us a coherent explanation.

In the not very secret but as yet unofficial US proposal, Israel is reportedly being pressed to withdraw from an additional 13.1% of the territory in the West Bank, without any agreed limits regarding the third scheduled FRD (further interim redeployment) or the permanent status talks. The issue is not the exact percentage, but the rest of the package and the implications for the future.

The opposition of the Netanyahu government, which has been repeated at every opportunity, makes sense, at least to those people who can look beyond the next year and toward the long-term situation in the region.

Netanyahu argues that if Israeli hands over a large area to the Palestinian Authority before agreement on permanent status, there will be nothing left to negotiate. Indeed, Yasser Arafat endorses this position, announcing his intention to unilaterally declare an independent Palestinian state one year from now.

This would only be viable if the PA already controlled at least half of the West Bank. Therefore, to prevent the PA from acting unilaterally, with all of the destabilizing consequences, Netanyahu's policy is that the permanent status talks must take precedence over the third FRD.

American officials have not taken the time to explain their expectations for permanent status and the impact of a Palestinian state

THE US apparently disagrees, having found ways of ensuring Israeli security under circumstances that the Israeli government could not find on its own. Fair enough, but what are these solutions?

Despite the centrality of the issues, American officials have not taken the time to describe or explain their expectations for permanent status and the impact of a Palestinian state.

Has the US already secured some agreement on confederation with Jordan, or on Palestinian demilitarization and enforcement mechanisms that will be more serious than those that have failed in the past?

Or, as seems more likely, are the American officials so involved in process and the pressure to maintain the momentum, that they have lost sight of the substance and the ultimate destination?

The same problem exists with respect to the American policy on terrorism.

Netanyahu argues that the Palestinian Authority's toleration for and encouragement of terror is the fundamental source of the halt in the Oslo process.

The Israeli government has concrete proposals for monitoring progress in the destruction of the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, as specified in the 1993 pact as well as in the 1995 Cairo Agreement and the 1996 Hebron Agreement.

None have been implemented, and the bomb factories, training facilities and other institutions that are part of the terrorist network remain intact in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Gaza and other areas under Arafat's complete control.

How are the Americans going to insure our security by pressing for further Israeli withdrawals, without fundamental changes in Palestinian behavior?

The American-inspired summit in 1996 at Sharm el-Sheikh, which came after the four terrible suicide bombings, had absolutely no impact, and did not even succeed in saving Shimon Peres's election chances.

Beyond some simplistic security pacts and minimal CIA interaction with the Palestinian security forces, where is the US policy to deal with terrorism?

In addition, the US has not provided any hints of how to implement the specific clauses prohibiting inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech directed at Jews and Israelis.

Arafat's calls for "jihad," and references to the terrorist bombers and murderers as "martyrs" and heroes, sustain the foundations of terrorism and hatred by denying the legitimacy of Jewish sovereignty and the need for coexistence. In speeches, texts and Palestinian television shows for children, Jews are still portrayed as outsiders who stole Arab land.

Netanyahu has demanded that, as a start, the PA and Arafat change this rhetoric. This also drives the Israeli demand for a formal public meeting of the Palestinian National Council in which all of the racist clauses referring to Jews and Israelis are voided before the entire Palestinian and Arab world, without any room for obfuscation.

However, on these central issues, the US peace makers have been silent. If the Americans wish to claim that they can ensure our security better than our elected government, let them at least provide the basis for these claims.

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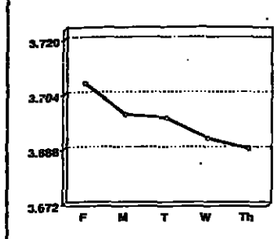
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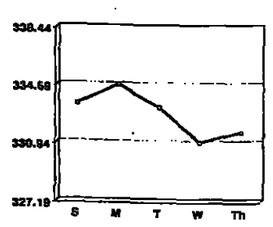
MARKETS

in brief

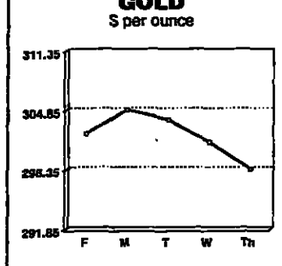
DOLLAR / SHEKEL



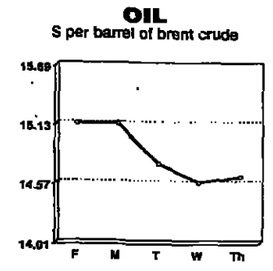
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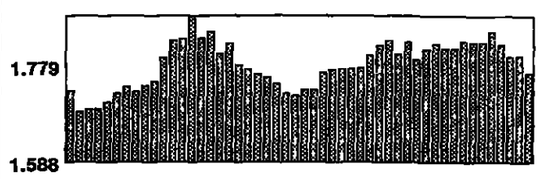
GOLD
$ per ounce



OIL
$ per barrel of brent crude

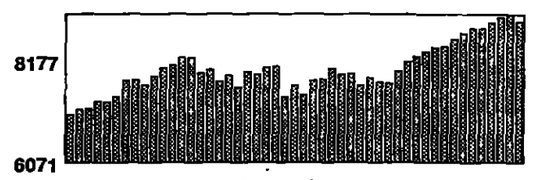


DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



April 1997 – April 1998

DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



May 1997 – May 1998

BITS & BYTES

By NINA GILBERT

Latvian phone network chooses Tadiran

Tadiran Telecommunications has won a three-year contract, valued at $5 million in the first year, for the supply of its Wireless Local Loop system to Latvia's main telecommunications supplier, Lattelekom SIA. Some 1,000 subscribers are to be connected to the system.

The system, Multigain Wireless (MGW), enables the installation of high-quality phone service in remote locations. Homes are installed with regular telephones that are linked to an antenna on the outside of the building that relays signals to substations. The system can also be used to boost the amount of users on existing phone systems, since it does not require the installation of cable infrastructure.

The Petah Tikva-based company is a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd. Tadiran has opened several offices in Russia, where it has sold some $20 million worth of its Wireless Local Loop system.

ECI gets $12m. contract in Russia

ECI Telecom, the Petah Tikva-based maker of telecommunications systems, announced this week that it has been chosen to provide toll quality compression equipment for private satellite networks in Russia and other countries in the CIS and CEE region by the Scottco Company. The two-year agreement is worth some $12 million.

ECI's system, DTX-360, will be deployed within Scottco's international gateways to provide voice and data services to residents of Moscow, Georgia, Tbilisi, Kiev, Sofia and other cities in the region.

Composit raises $10m.

Composit Communications, the Ramat Gan based maker of communications solutions for organizations, has raised $10 million from a number of leading venture capital funds, including the Star Fund, the Jafco fund of Japan, and funds from Europe and the United States.

The funds were enlisted as part of the company's launch of a its new main product, Composit, a Call Center platform, which is to be unveiled this month. The system manages incoming and outgoing telephone calls, interactive voice-mail, queue management, recording of calls coming into the system, agent management, fax, Internet-phone, and e-mail.The company has also launched a recruitment drive here and in the US.

The company, formerly known as the Missing Link, was established in 1991 as a services provider, and changed its name in 1994 when it began to develop products.

GEO interactive boosts marketing in Japan

GEO Interactive Media Group, the Givatayim-based maker of multimedia software, announced that its distributor in Japan, Tomen Electronics, has entered into an agreement with Canon Sales, a subsidiary of Canon Inc., to stock its Emblaze products in its 75 retail outlets in Japan.

Ministry of Defense
Authority for Military Equipment Import Permits

Military Equipment Agents, as defined in the Supervision of Goods and Services Law (Amendment No. 6) 1976 are required to request a permit from the Authority, authorizing them to collect commission and fixing the level of such commissions.
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Venture capital investments reach $156m. in first quarter

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israeli high-tech companies raised at least $156 million in the first quarter of the year according to the Money Tree Survey conducted by accounting firm Kesselman & Kesselman/Coopers & Lybrand.

The figure reflects a 130 percent increase over the first quarter of 1997, in which high-tech companies raised $68m.

According to the report, nine American venture capital funds invested $13.5m. in Israeli enterprises, of which some 50% were invested in software companies. These funds have completed 10 deals, marking the largest number of international financings by American companies outside the US.

Yossi Fellus, a partner in Kesselman, noted that the first quarter was characterized by higher investments in later-stage companies rather than in companies which are at first-stage.

The majority of investments were in communications and software companies. Thirty-three percent of the investments ($50.2m.) were invested in the communications industry compared with 21% ($49.1m.) in the whole of 1997. Thirty-two percent were invested in software companies, against 24% last year.

The majority of investments (82%) were made in companies in the Tel Aviv region, while 17% were made in Jerusalem and its environs. Investments in companies in the North fell to only 1%, from an average of 14% in 1997.

Aviv Shoham, a high-tech consultant at Kesselman, said that the 34 funds included in the survey represent some 60% of the local venture capital industry.

A similar survey conducted by Coopers & Lybrand showed that in the US, venture-capital backed companies received $3.2 billion during the first quarter, a 30% increase over the same period a year earlier. The average size of each investment was $4.6m. which is substantially higher than the average investment of $600,000 made by Israeli venture capital funds.

In addition, local funds usually invest in combination with two to three other investors, making a total investment of $2m.

Israeli technology venture capital funds raised $578 million in 1997 as against $402m. a year earlier. According to a report by the the Israel Venture Association, funds hold currently some $740m. for further investments in high-tech companies.

Israel Railways to buy double-deckers, tilting trains

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel Railways will this month publish international tenders for the purchase of double-decker trains and high-speed tilting trains, director-general Amos Uzani told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Just returned from the Czech Republic, where he met with representatives of engineering firm CKD Praha Holdings, Uzani said he has held talks with all the major train manufacturers and they are very interested in dealing with Israel.

The tenders will be published with a clause saying the purchases are dependent on funding being available. Israel Railways is in ongoing discussions with the National Infrastructure Ministry and the Treasury over its budget.

"I'm bringing forward the process [of issuing tenders], so that when I have the money, we won't need to wait a further eight months on the tender process, this way we'll be ready," said Uzani. "I'll say to the successful bidder 'you've won the tender but you're not going to get anything until I've got my budget.'"

On Sunday, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman introduced to the cabinet a proposal to pump a further NIS 120 million into the railways budget, but not for the purchase of trains. Within the 1998 state budget, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu ensured an additional NIS 100m. be spent on the Tel Aviv-Beersheba line to help reduce unemployment in the Negev by improving its links with the center of the country.

However, these two measures will only bring the railways' budget up to NIS 365m., despite Uzani's claim that he needs NIS 500m. in each of the next five years to implement the Railways 2000 program, including the purchase of these new trains.

Central bank: Slowdown deepens

By DAVID HARRIS

The economic slowdown deepened in the six-month period until April 1, according to a report published yesterday by the Bank of Israel's research department.

The paper points to six key causes for the continued failure to reboot growth: the ongoing effect of the Asian crisis on exports; the shortage of high-tech workers; across-the-board real increases in salaries, including the minimum wage; the rising tax burden; the decline in public-sector infrastructure investment; and uncertainty on the political-security front, including the recent tension caused by the threat of another Gulf War.

The central bank said January-March this year was the eighth consecutive quarter with low growth, adding that the per-capita gross domestic product even declined during that period.

Early this year there have been signs of an increase in the pace of the upward trend in unemployment. Despite this, wrote the bank, pay levels continued to rise.

Inflationary expectations have fallen sharply, with the 12-month prediction at the end of March standing at five to six percent.

The central bank recommends the country take advantage of this downturn and push ahead toward inflation levels similar to those of other industrialized countries.

MEMCO buys two companies for $55m.

By NINA GILBERT

MEMCO Software, the Tel Aviv-based maker of server security solutions, yesterday announced agreements for the purchase of two companies, AbirNet, an Israeli start-up, and Network Information Technology, in a deal worth $55 million.

The companies will be acquired, in separate transactions, for a total of $43.7m. in common stock and $11.3 million in cash.

AbirNet, based in Yokne'am, was purchased for $27 million, $11m. in cash and the rest in shares.

The company, established two years ago, makes the SessionWall-3 network surveillance, intrusion detection and response software. SessionWall-3 continuously monitors networks to identify Internet-based attacks, intrusions or internal network abuses.

Network Information Technology, based in Santa, Clara, California, develops the UniShield product line for server security and access control on Windows NT and Unix systems.

MEMCO, whose flagship product is the SeOS (Security for Open Systems), is to integrate NII's and AbirNet's products into its product line to provide broader security solutions.

MEMCO has its US headquarters in Redwood City California and NII will become part of that unit.

Scitex reports $2.6m. profit for first quarter

COMPANY RESULTS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Scitex Corporation took another step toward recovery yesterday when it announced first quarter net income of $2.6 million, compared with a net loss of $7m. a year ago.

However, the company suffered a net loss of $42m. if a one-time charge for the acquisition of local company Idanit, which was completed last year, is included.

Despite the improvement in profitability, the Herzliya-based maker of digital printers reported that revenues for the quarter fell to $159m. from $163m. a year earlier, with revenues in Japan falling to 7% of total income from 11% a year ago and sales to the Asia Pacific region falling to 4% from 7%.

The company has also said it will buy back up to two million of its shares, representing 4.5% of the outstanding shares.

Tadiran Telecom first quarter net rises to $12.5m.

Tadiran Telecommunications yesterday announced that net income for the first quarter rose to $12.5m. from $5.1m. a year ago. The company said the figure includes a capital gain of some $9m. from the sale of 5% of its new subsidiary, InnoWave Tadiran Telecommunications Wireless Systems.

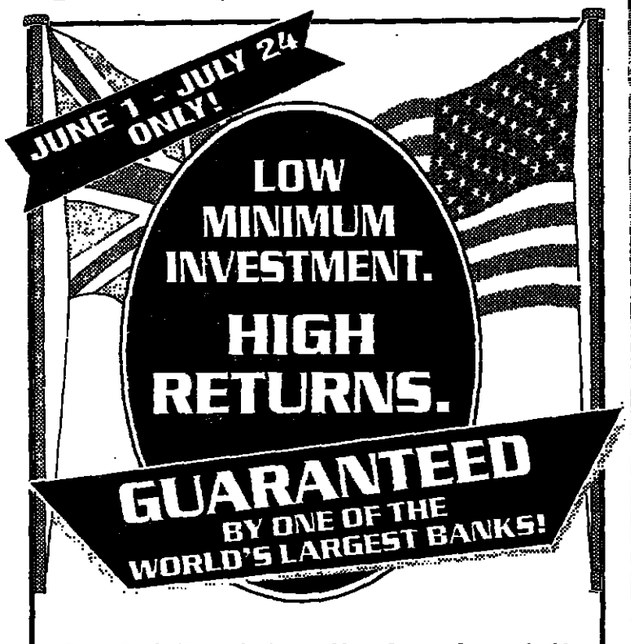
Net income excluding this capital gain would have been only $3.5m.

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	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	395	-1
Africa Israel 0.1	22900	-0.4
Africa Israel 1	210500	-0.1
Agan	12650	2.8
Agis	2570	0
Al Paper Mills	12640	1.9
Al-Ron	2950	8.8
Alandin	3120	-0.6
Azorim Prop.	811	-1
Bank Leumi 0.1	553	0.9
Batan	3000	0
Bayside 1	49000	2.4
Bayside 5	197500	-0.2
Bezeq	1114	0.2
Blue Square	4230	0
Bromine	9270	-1.2
Cal Electronics	57000	-0.9
Clal Industries	2050	1
Clal Insurance	4110	-2.9
Clal Israel 1	111.3	0.9
Dan Hotels	690	-2
Dankner	2110	0
Danya	790	-0.8
Dead Sea Works 0.1	940	-0.5
Delek 0.1	15990	1.5
Delek Car	806	-0.9
Development Mort	29000	1.5
Discount Bank	429	-0.9
Discount Inv.	10560	-1.6
Elbit 0.003	1173	1.1
Elbit Imaging	2250	0
Elbit system	3370	-1.4
Elco	2130	1.4
Elco Industries	3687	-0.6
Electra	15850	0.4
Electra App	1825	0.6
Elite Ind. 1	2300	3
Elite Ind. 5	11580	0.3
Elron 0.003	6710	0.7
Fibi 5	66300	-0.5
First Int'l 1	55300	0.9
First Int'l 5	254200	0.1
First Int'l Mort	53700	0
Formula	15260	0.5
General Bank	11300	0
Granit Hacarmel	704	-0.7
Hadarim Prop.	6300	0
Ham-Lar	2360	-1.7
Hapoalim 0.1	1036	0.3
Harel Mishmar 1	3830	0.3
Harel Mishmar 5	18300	-1.7
I.D.B. Dev.	8630	0.9
I.D.B. Holdings	8550	-0.6
ILDC	2270	0.9
Ind Bldgs	590	-1.7
Israel Chemicals	1447	-1.3
Israel Corp. 1	24400	2.9
Isrotel	697	-1.9
Jetons	800	3.8
JCT	34	1.5
JEC	1872	-0.4
Kitan	372	0
Koshlam	4150	-1.2
Koor	46400	-0.2
Leader	1398	-1.1
Leumi Insurance	228	0.9
Leumi Mortgage	85200	-1.2
Lidar	5050	3
Makhteshim	3030	2.3
Maman	688	0
Matrix	3720	0.3
Mehadrin	11650	-2.3
Mel Eden	1950	-3.7
Melisaron	1026	1.8
Menorah Ins. 1	1940	0
Milamar	1619	-0.9
Mishkan	63000	0
Mizrahi Ins.	11950	-2.6
NATSNA REGULAR	1280	0.8
Nice Systems	15160	-3.6
Ofer	7960	0
Orbit	2090	1.4
Orsat Industries	470	-2.1
Osem Industries	1601	0.8
Petrochemicals	2100	1
Phoenix Ins. 1	6200	-0.8
Poalim Inv.	12780	0.9
Prop & Bldg	29300	1
Saif Industries	1885	-2.3
Solel Bone	4920	-0.7
Supersol	1154	0.1
Tadiran	13960	1.2
Tambour	710	0
Telsiot	205000	1.5
Teuza	1220	2.5
Tevel	17000	2
Urdan	2880	-1.9
Wire and Cables	1410	2.6
Ytong Industries	918	-1.2

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	335	0
Alpex	2.4	9.7
Alrad	48.2	-8.9
Ace-Spada	892.5	-5.2
Ackerstein Bond B	182	0.3
Ackerstein Ind.	453	1.3
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1496	-1.5
Ackerstein Zvi 5	6549	0
adaloon	35.5	0
Adamin	369940	0
Adler	128	-1.2
Adsha	122	0
Adamim	179	-0.5
Africa Hotels Bond B	88	-1.1
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	40	-7.5
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	0	0
Afrika Israel Hotels Bond A	131	0
Afsek Ind	770	-1
Agis Warrant 3	230	-39
Agis Warrant 4	530	1.5
Agish Ind'l	329	-0.3
Agal Investments	290	4.3
Al-Bad	147.5	0.7
Al-Bad Bond A	109	-0.5
Alma e2	102.5	0
Alma w5	182	0
Alumenco	759	1.2
Alonit	249	0
Alony-Hetz	544	0
Alony-Hetz Bond A	249	0
Alrod	208	0
Alrod Warrant 1	8.7	0
Alrov Bond D	783	-0.1
Alrov Warrant 5	390	3.9
Alumit	201	0.5
Alumil	4677	0
Amiger	185	0
Amitec	234	2.6
Aromef Warrant 1	12	0
Aronet	668	2.5
Argos Investments	194999	0
Ariyelet EMS	1220	0
Angel Trade	38.1	0
Angel Trade Bond A	159.5	-1
Angel Trade Bond B	109	-0.5
Angel Trade Bond C	60.5	-1.6
Angel Trade Warrant 2	1	0
Apcon	1069	0.4
Apcon warrant 1	321	-3.7
Applicom	2700	4.4
Arancell Warrant 2	464	-8.4
Arad	2080	0
Arad Towels	914	0
Aradim	84	0
Aradim Bond 1	236	0.4
Argaman	247	0
Arladan	1062	0
Arpal	471	0
Arye	1332	-1.5
Ashkelon Plywood	670	1.8
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	226	-0.4
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	120.5	0
Ashtrom	435	0
Ashtrom Bond A	149	0
Asher	321	-1.8
Asher Bond A	197.5	-0.9
Ashpan	75.5	-1.3
Ashtrom Bond 1	168.5	0.3
Ashtrom Bond 2	156	2
Ashtrom Ind.	591	-0.2
Ashtrom Prop.	205	0
Astrom P Bond 1	88	0
Astrom p warrant a	36	11.8
Astrum Bond C	94.5	0
Astrum Warrant 2	33.1	-0.6
Aston	77	-1.9
ATX	182	0
ATX Bond A	148	0.7
Atzmon	246	-0.4
Aura	5550	-4
Avgol	382	0
Avgol Bond A	155.2	0.6
Averbuch Formica	894	0
Aviv	462	0
Aviv Bond 1	147	0
Aviv Bond 2	89	0
Avner	1.8	-10
Avnet Bond 2	97	0
Avnet Warrant 2	69	-2.2
Avsion	551	-1.1
Azimuth	516	-1.9
Azorim Properties Bond 3	171	0
Azorim Warrant 19	497	-2.5
Azorim Warrant 5	97	0.2
Azorim Warrant A	640	-3
Azorim Warrant B	552	0
Badhasb Bond 1	40.7	-1.9
Bablit	349	0
Balantine 1	252	-10
Balantine Bond A	128	0.4
Balantine Warrant 2	8.8	0
Balnon	3117	10
Bama'asef	98.5	0
Bama'asef Bond A	132.5	0
Ber	362	0
Ber Bond A	108.5	0
Berad	268	0
Berenowitz	720	5.8
Berkan	668	0.3
Berlad	101	0.5
Bertel	178	3.2
Beumel Moshe	163.5	0
BeySide Bond 2	86.5	0.5
BeySide Warrant D	2200	0
Bet Shemesh	1590	4
Bolmon	235	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	168.5	0
Ben Yakar Bond B	80	-1.2
Ben Yakar Gat	4830	0.3
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	1	0
Benteen	188	2.2
Bezeik Bond 3	102.9	0.9
Bezeik Bond 4	1340	3
Bezeik Warrant 3	522	1
Bezeik Warrant Bond 3	307	3.9
Bilu	1720	0
Bilu Bond A	182	-0.6
Binar	590	0
Bior	295	0
Bitan	74.5	0
Bokia Bond B		
bokia gad warrant 1	48.5	0
Bonei Tichon	592	0
Bonpur	590	-0.2
Boulous Brothers	136.5	1.8
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	254	0
Boulous GD Bond A	121	-9.4
Brand	94	-1.1
Brill	94	0
Brok Side	23	9.4
Brosh	102	-10.1
Building Bank	1984	-1
Building Resou.	3471	-1.3
C Holdings	709	0
C Holdings Bond 5	95	-0.9
C Holdings Warrant 3	10.5	5
Caesarea 1	5366	-5
Camtek	3080	-0.3
Capital	800	-2.2
Capital Bond A	117.2	0
Caprica	399	0.5
Carpet	770	0
Carmel	542	0
Carmel	551	-2.3
Casbo	226	0
Catalena 1	648	0
CDI	203	-0.5
Cesaratsel Bond A	73.5	0
Cesaretzel	801	1.2
Castro	147.5	0
Castro Bond 1	126	0
Chemi	586	-1.7
Chayron Computers	183	7
Chemiberl	455	2.2
Chim-Nir	270	1
CI Systems	222	0
Cidan	191	-0.3
Clal Computer Warrant 3	0	0
Clal Computers	15100	-0.7
Clal Industries Bond	204	0
Clal Israel 5	205	0
Clal Retail	59999	-0.5
Cohen Beni	199	0.5
Cohen Dev.	324	-11.1
Cohen Mil	202	-1.5
Cold Storage 1	1548	-0.1
Cold Storage 5	7430	1.1
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	242	0
Compl	254	7.1
Compl Warrant 1	30	33.3
Compucom	159	-4.5
Comtech	1.3	3.3
Contrans	921	-1.2
Contel	1003	0
Contractors	17505	0
Coral Beach	910	0
Credit Line	4.3	0
Credit Lines Bond A	37.5	0
Cyclone 1	1857	2
Cyclone Bond 1	236	-0.4
Cyclone Bond 2	148.5	0
Datcon	1480	0
Datron Bond 1	342	0
Delin	2	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	747	1.1
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	158.6	-0.9
Danber 1	3960	0
Danber 5	18200	0
Danber Bond A	254	0
Danber Resources	7149	0
Danber Resources Bond B	181	0
Danber Tech.	6950	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	148	0
Daniel	58	0
Daniel Bond A	86	0
Daniel Personnel	2500	2
Daniel Warrant 2	500	0
Dankner Bond 1	207	0
Dankner Bond 2	142.4	0
Dankner Bond 3	90.3	-0.2
Dankner Warrant C	455	0
Dankner Warrant D	0	0
Dasty	727	0
Dead	95	3.3
DARBAN BOND 2	85	0
Darban Bond A	204	-10.8
DARBAN W2	140	0
Darban Warrant 3	124	1.2
Darna	126	1.2
Darlon	144	0.3
Dash investment	971	1.9
Data	583	0.5
Decision Systems	518	-2.1
Degani Systems	620	-1.6
Delek Drilling	8.8	0
Delek Oil	1455	-0.5
Delta 1	3400	1.8
Delta 3	10480	-0.1
Denimy	1330	0
Digal	118	0
Dinori	1700	0
Dolav	440	-4.5
Dolav Bond A	194	0
Dolav Warrant 1	80	-12.3
Domicar	439	5.8
Domicar Bond	149.5	0
Dor Chim	385	-3.9
Doro w1	125	0
Dorsa	58	0
Dorf c1	85.1	0
Dorf Engineering	481	0
Dorf Engineering Bond A	137	0
Dowat Bond A	136	0
Dowat Shrem	1370	0.7
Dowat Shrem Warrant 3	51	-9.8
DSL	1468	0
Dubek M	2	0
Dubek S	2	0
Dupiz	317	0
DVG Industries	440	0
E & M Computing	1159	-1.8
Edgar Alberi	90.5	0
Edgar Industries	200	-0.5
Edgar Inv. Bond C	85.5	-0.6
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	27	0
Elbar Bond A	99	0
Elrom	186	3.1
Elsan	307	0
El Bad	1570	0
El Cenit	575	-8
El Cenit Bond 1	151	0
Elad	527	1
Elad Bond A	167.5	0
Elad Bond B	136.5	-0.7
Elad c3	51	0
Elad w5	43.5	-4.9
Elbit Computers Bond B	122	-1
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	784	0
Elden Tech.	160	0
Electronics Line	449	-0.2
Elgar	4831	0
Elgbar	332	3.1
Elitech Ind.	742	5
Elkan	299	-0.3
Ella	437	0
Ella Bond A	141	0
Elron	8488	-2.5
Elron Warrant 2	2888	0
Elrwik	1915	0
Emylo	613	0.5
Engal Const.	736	0
ESE	2080	1
Eshed Robotech	211	-0.5
Even	404	-1.9
Evergreen	3320	0
Evrona Warrant 1	1291	0
Excelsace	2031	0
Export Inv.	570	0
Extra	121.5	-3.2
Feldman	174.5	0.6
Feldman Bond A	149	0
Feldman 5	171	-1.2
Feldman Warrant 3	10	-21.9
Fenitlawa 1	126.5	1.2
Feuchtwanger 1	11700	-0.9
Feuchtwanger 5	57400	-0.9
Fidelis	2662	8
Fine J Jewelers	245	0
Fine J Jewelers Bond 2	125	0
Formica Source	191	0
Fruitcom	242	-0.9
Gahelet	18680	-0.1
Galcom	267	-1.1
Galtex	1267	0
Gama	211	-0.5
Gamatronic	555	-0.2
Gambit	1470	0
Gan Shmuel Bond A	112.4	1.2
Gan Shmuel Warrant 3	555	3.6
Gan Shmuel	1420	0.4
General Water	392	0
Gep Development	109	-1
Gep-Holdings	205	0
Gep Warrant 2	10.9	-0.9
Gesher	737	-0.3
Gezit Bond B	154	0
Gezit Bond C	120	0
Gibor Bond 1	85	0
Gibor Bond A	82.5	0
Gibor Sabina	62	0
Gibor Sport	809	0
Gibor Warrant 2	139	0
Gibbon	118	0
Gilo	136.5	0
Gilsak	1542	0
Givot Olam Oil	92	0
Glob Rit	372	-1.1
Golan	594	1.2
Gold	519	0
Golden House	353	-0.8
Golden House Bond 1	242	0
Golex	139	-1.1
Granit Bond	149	-0.9
Granit Bond 2	147	-0.3
Green Software	370	0
Greenberg	1354	8.7
H. Electronics	72	0
H. Mor	925	1
Habas	2634	-10
Habas Bond 1	129	0
Hadar 1	18716	3
Hadar 5	57324	3.2
Hadar Ins. 1	944	-2.8
Hadar Ins. 5	4120	10.2
Hadarim Bond L	108.3	0
Hadarim Warrant1	950	-1.1
Hagal	388	0
Hagal Bond B	146	-0.3
Hamalor	372	-0.5
Hanal	8.9	0
Hanil Bond A	435	0
Hanin Esh	232	0
Hanon	198	-1
Harphel 1	212	0
Harphel Bond A	141.5	0
Hatal	1530	0
Hayal Bond1	341	0
Hayal Bond2	200	-5
Hayal Warrant 1	84	0
Hed Arzi Music	345	0
Hiron 1	10459	0
Hiron 5	42134	0
HL Service Bond 2	178.6	0
HL Service Bond 3	142.5	-0.3
HL Services	2058	0
Hod	1361	5
Hof	871	0
Holit	120.5	0
Home Center	7280	3.8
Hydrotics	1535	0
IES Industries	599	5.3
IES Warrant 1	82	7.2
Ilah Gaz	149.5	0
Ilah Gaz Bond A	143	0
ILDC Bond 5	233	0
ILDC Hotels	1117	-0.2
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	164.5	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	76.5	4.5
ILDC Insurance	388	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	129	-0.4
Ilnco	1368	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	64.9	-9.2
Ind Bldgs R1	87	-5.6
Ind.Dev.Bank C	2585	1.5
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	2000	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2840	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1764	1.6
Independence Mort	92757	0
Inescoarna	773	0
Interarsenal 1	4947	3.5
Interarsenal 5	21604	5
Iscar	2179	5
Isgro	3570	0
Isracolor	441	0
Israel Corp. 5	104100	0.1
Israel Lightarage Bond 3	134	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	174.6	0
Issatron	1200	0
Issatron Bond B	268	0
Issatron Bond C	86.5	0
Issmoco	3.2	-3.1
Issus 1	7200	0
Issus 5	30000	0
Isotel Bond A	248	0
ISTA LINES	2674	0
Isy	2800	0
Isy Bond 1	68.8	0
Isy Warrant 1	888	0
Isy Warrant 2	177	0
Jalisa Bond A	180	0
Jaysour	186	0
Jaysour Bond A	98	-1.5
JEC Bond B	92.3	-0.8
Jerusalem Mort	195	-1
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 18	158	0
Jeumesce	30.2	0
JOEL	107	0
JOEL Bond 1A	228	0
JOEL Bond 2	128	-1.7
JOEL Bond A	224	0
JOEL Warrant 3	2.5	0
Kadimi	169.5	2.1
Kadouri	288	8
kafrica bond b	84.5	0
kafrica warrant 1	78	-8.1
Kafrit	1157	0
Kalkalit Bond A	92.8	0
Kalkalit warrant 2	328	0
Kamor	578	0
Kamour Bond G	130.5	0
Kamsept	1015	-0.8
Kanal Warrant G	1.1	0
Kanicel	42.1	5
Kanicel Bond A	87	0.8
Kardan 1	487	0
Kardan 5	2180	-0.5
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	84	0
Kedem Chemicals	3670	0.8
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	230	0
Keinax	336	0
Kesher	786	0
Kesher Bond A	149	0
Keter	549	0
Kind	16.8	9.1
Kind Bond A	28.5	0
King	329	0
Kinneret	224	-0.4
Kitsch Kinor	169	0
Kishrei Teufa	1000	-1.8
Klasi	419	0
Klasi Bond A	151	-0.7
Klasi Bond A	104.5	0
Klasi Warrant 1	1.5	25
Kill Ind. 5	6810	0
Koor Bond 5	180.9	0.7
Kopel	309	-0.5
Kopel Bond 1	295	0
La Nationale Bond A	147.5	0
La Nationale Pref	105	0
Lachish	3914	-0.3
Lamont	929	-1
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1.1	-8.3
Lapidot Oil Explorers	72	0
Lasarov	445	-0.2
Lavlav	590	0
Lazzick Bldg	415	0
Lazzick Comm Cos	125	0
Lazzick Commercial Centres Bond	119.5	0
Lazzick Ind Bldgs	325	0
Lazzick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	133	0
Lazzick Warrant B	44.3	-10.3
Lego	492	0
Leumi R4	92	0
Leveshel	369	0
Levi	686	3.6
Levi Bond A	184	0
Levi Bond B	85	0
Levi Warrant 2	88.9	-12.5
Levinstein Bond A	90	0
Levinstein Warrant 2	595	13.5
Levinstein	1279	0
Liber	442	4
Lidan	1500	0
Likbit 1	153.5	-0.3
Likbit 5	650	-0.8
Lipad	583	-1
Lipad Bond 1	153.5	0
Lightarage 1	529	-0.2
LMS	230	0
Lipman	3300	0
Lipski	2500	0
Lipski Bond A	170	0
Lirez Bond A	178	-0.5
Lodan	182	-0.3
Lodzia 1	1460	0
Lodzia 4	5908	0
Luhot Gabi	32	0
Luhot Gabi Bond 1	138	0
Lumir	3820	0
Ma'ariv	2900	-1.3
Ma'ariv Bond A	125	-1.6
Maabarot	1107	1.2
Maagalit	1152	0
Magal Bond A	130	0
Magal Bond B	116	0
Magal Bond C	757	-0.4
Magal Warrant 3	145	0
Magil	754	-1
Magam	1735	-0.3
Magam Bond A	167.5	-0.5
Magam Bond B	123.5	0
Magav	342	9.6
Magma	47	0
Magma Warrant 1	0	0
Magor 1	2450	6.1
Magor 5	9700	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	80.5	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	830	13.3
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	22.5	0.4
Maiol	351	-8
Mait	71	-1.4
Malibu 1	880	4.8
Malibu 5	4110	2.7
Malibu Bond B	169.3	0.1
Malta	702	0
Man	106.5	0
Man Bond A	226	0
Mantur	36.9	-5
Marathon	102	0
Marathon Insured	111	-0.2
Marlo Lazzick Constr. Bond 1	168	-0.6
Marlo Lazzick Constr. Bond 2	140	-0.4
Maritime Bank	1899	-2.1
Maritime Bank Bond A	197	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	138	0
Marshav	762	0.3
Mashbir	804	0
Mashov	544	-0.7
Mashov	152.5	-3.8
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	4.5	0
Matam	1347	0
Matav Warrant 1	479	-5.1
Maxima 1	294	-0.6
Maxima 5	1477	0
Mazpak	604	0
Med. Hotels	52	0
Mediltechnics	797	1.9
Mediltechnics Bond A	127	-2.4
Mediltechnics Bond B	78	0
Mediltechnics Warrant 2	196	0
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	84	-5.2
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	375	0
Meir Ezra	2220	1.6
Meir Ezra Bond B	238	0
Melal	395	0
Mellaseron Bond B	88.1	0
Mellaseron Warrant 3	45	0
Mendelson	230	1.3
Mercilim	58	-0.6
Menorah Ins. 5	8300	-0.7
Mercazit	696	0.3
Mercazit Warrant 2	39.9	-19.1
Merhav	190	0
Meytarit	453	0
Middle East Tube	393	-0.5
Middle East Tube Bond A	106	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	28.4	0
Millmor Bond A	148	-0.7
Millomar Bond B	73	0
Millomar Warrant 2	225	0
Mimser	112	0.4
Mind Line	337	0
Minrav	12490	0
Mirage	198.5	0
Mirage Bond A	129	0
Mirage Warrant 1	25.5	-1.9
Mirkaei	69	0
Mishorot	19	0
Mishorot Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	140.5	-0.4
Mishor Hahol	388	0.5
Mitavim	119.5	0
Mivtach Shamir	3080	1
Mivtach Shamir	1975	-6.6
MM Engineering	135.5	0
MM Engineering Bond A	76	-10.1
Modgal	715	0
Modi'in	1.5	0
Modlet	215	0.9
Modlet Convertible Bond AAA	306	0
Molad	598	0
Mona Plastic Ind.	333	0
Moshkoviz	160.5	-1.8
MTI Computers	461	0
Mul-T-Lock	851	-2.1
Mula Senter	223	0
Nachshon Fund	48.8	0
Naphtha	48.1	2.9
Naphtha Oil Exp.	23.1	2.2
Nator	669	0
NATSNA BOND A	97.7	0
Navigator	399	0
Navigator Property	600	0
Nechushtan Bond B	67.5	0
Nechushtan Prop.	178.5	-1.9
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	122.5	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	22.7	15.2
Negev Ceramics	178.5	0
Nehushtan 1	962	-4
Nehushtan 5	4481	-10
Nest Aviv	7118	0
Nesya	485	-10
Neve Arbel	675	8
Newlin Hotels	385	0
Nextel	3977	8.9
Nia	209	-0.9
Nilcor	1361	0
Nisco	2127	-1
Nissan	227	0
NMC	318	0
Nogal	1250	-5
Noga Issorene	102	0
Nordan	12.2	0
Nordan Tech.	404	-9.1
Norlelit	883	0
Norlelit Bond A	1445.5	0.3
Nur	69	0
NYP	801	0
Oceania	314	0
Oell Bond A	175	-0.1
Oell Bond B	170.5	-0.3
Oell Bond C	88	0.6
Oell Warrant 2	558	0
Optovia	744	0
Ofek	164.5	-1
Ofer Bro	6346	-1
Ofis	883	0
Ogden	61	0
Oleflex	590	-0.7
Oil Fields	1.2	9.1
Ole-Dok	241	0
Omru	282	0
Omnitech	268	1.5
Ophir	450	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	107.5	0
Orsys	3888	0
Orzeit	268	3.1
Orzeit Bond A	158	0
Oxis	3687	-0.8
Orda Bond 1	174	-0.6
Orer	552	0
Oneil	142	-0.4
Ortiz	436	0
Ortiz Bond A	80	0
Ortiz Warrant 2	87.5	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	124	-1.6
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	116	0
Ormi	321	0.3
Otzar Hashilton	19800	0.3
Oz	234	0
Oz mide	360	0
Packer Steel	5850	-1
Paltough	504	1
Pama	743	4.9
Pemes	2588	0
Pen Dor	257	0
Pardes	799	0.3
Pardes Bond A	78.5	-1.2
Passport	2562	0
Paz Chen	370	-2.6
PCB	1810	2.2
Pdan Investment	80	0
Pereg	102.5	6.8
Perfolene	1088	-0.4
Phoenix Ins. 5	21300	0
Pica Plast	436	0
Picus	140.5	-1.1
Picus Bond A	137.5	0
Plaki	291	0
Plasson bond a	85.5	0
Plasson warrant 1	396	-0.3
Plasson	3800	2.6
Plasto Sac	750	0
Plasto Shack Bond A	98	0
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	124	12.8
Plasto Shack Warrant 3	0	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	88	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2450	-2
Poalim Investments Bond A	131	-0.4
Poalim Warrant 3	497	0.6
Point of Sale	6500	0.8
Polaris	360	0
Polgat A	280	-0.4
Polgat B-4	790	-0.4
Polgat Bond B	170	0
Polygon	282	-0.4
Polygon Bond 2	212	0
Ponso	293	1.4
Ponsz Warrant 1	106	0
Port	213	10.1
Poseidon	99	0
Pri Haamek	14.7	-9.8
Pri Haamek Bond A	40.3	0
Pritzker	239	0
Pritzker Bond A	141.5	0.4

	LAST	CHANGE*
Temple Inland	63.8125	-0.75
Tenneco	43	+0
Tenet Health	36.5	-0.375
Terazyme	34.625	-1.375
Tesoro Pet	20.1875	-0.125
Texaco	60.75	-0.625
Texas Instrmnts	64.0625	+0.0625
Texas Utilities	38.5625	+0.1875
Textron	78	+0
Thiokol	62.0625	0
Thomas & Betts	59.625	+0.0625
ThreeCom	32.125	-2.28125
Time Warner	77.6875	-0.875
Times-Mirror	62.375	-0.1875
Timken	39	+0.125
Torchmark	43.8125	-0.8125
Tosco Corp	38.125	-0.1875
Toys R Us	29.1875	-0.5625
Transamerica	115.125	+0.125
Transco Energy	67.5	-0.875
Travellers Grp	60.375	+0.5
Tribune	66.875	-0.5625
Triton Energy	42.625	+1.375
TWA	8.875	+0.25
Tyco Labs	51.9375	-0.9375
Tyler	10	-0.25
UAL Corp	82.625	+0.125
USG Corp	55.0625	+0.9375
UST Inc	27.5	-0.5
USX Marathon	36.125	-0.9375
USX-US Steel	37.1875	-0.75
Ultramar Diam	34.8125	+0.5
Unicom Corp	30.5625	-0.75
Unilever PLC	42.1875	-0.9375
Unilever NV	74	-1.875
Union Camp	61.0625	+0.0625
Union Carbide	51.4375	-0.9375
Union Pacific	54.875	-0.75
Unisys Corp	23.375	-0.5
USAIR Group	66.5625	+0.8125
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	41.6875	-1
US Surgical	31.125	+0.5
US Trust	70.875	-0.625
US West	50.9375	-1.5625
United Tech	85.6875	-1.4375
Unocal Corp	39.75	-0.25
VF Corp	50.375	-0.3125
Valero Energy	33.375	+0.125
Vanan Assoc	48.75	-0.125
Viacom Inc	57.375	+0.625
Vishay	21	+2
Vulcan Materials	112.938	-2.1875
Wachovia	80.375	-2.5
Walgreen	34.375	+0.375
Wal-Mart Stores	50.625	+0.6875
Warner-Lambert	161	-3.9375
Wash Gas Light	26.25	+0.1875
Washington Mutu	68.9375	-0.3125
Washington Post	630.063	+2.5625
Waste Mgmnt Inc	34.4375	+0.375
Watkins-Johnson	26.9375	+0.4375
Weis Markets	35.75	+0
Wells Fargo	366	-5.3125
Wendy's Intl	23.25	-0.4375
Wesfarmers	30.25	-0.0625
Weyerhaeuser	56.5	-0.8125
Whirlpool	68.5625	-1.5
Whitman	19.3125	+0.25
Williams Co	31.6875	+0.6875
Winn Dixie Stors	37.0625	-0.0625
Woolworth	22.1875	+0.3125
World Comm	42.8125	+0.1875
Worthington Ind	17.25	-0.1875
Wrigley	91.0625	-0.25
Xerox	112.375	-0.625
Yellow Freight	17 1875	-0.3125
Zenith Electron	3.5	+0.0625
Zero Co	29.125	-0.25

LONDON

Allied Domecq	527	+4.5
BAT Inds	582	+3
BT	667	-25.5
BTR	209	+3.5
Barclays	1758	-22
Bass	1108	+12
Boots	915	-1
British Airways	637	+4.5
Comm Union plc	1128	-5
Diageo	731	-12.5
General Electric	526.5	+4.5
Glaxo	1692	-30
Halifax	778.5	-11.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1774	-68
ICI	1148	+26
Land Securities	1036	-28
Lloyds Bank	893	-9
Marks & Spencer	553	-19.5
NatWest Bank	1218	-4
Prudential	806.5	-38.5
Reuters	626.5	-8.5
Sainsbury	522.5	+18.75
Shell Transport	454	+3.25
Unilever	644.5	-12
Zeneca	2543	-50

PARIS

Accor	1652	+1
Air Liquide	1108	-4
Alcatel Alsthom	1179	+10
Euro Disney	9.3	-0.35
Michelin B	362.5	-10.5
Moulinex	188.3	-3.2
Paribas	642	-3
Pernod Ricard	400.3	-7.7
Peugeot	1132	+20
Saint Gobain	1083	+23

	LAST	CHANGE*
FRANKFURT		
Bayer	73.9	-0.9
Daimler-Benz	205.1	+12.2
Lufthansa	42	-0.35
Mannesmann	1418	-33
Metallgesellschaft	37.9	-0.5
Volkswagen	1445	-16

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 7-MAY-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	3.9609	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.688	0
British Pound (1)	6.1075	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.0915	0
French Franc (1)	0.6238	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.777	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.5135	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5633	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.1192	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.4816	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8978.69	-77.97
DJ Transport	3384.84	+4.09
DJ Utils	231.49	-1.15
DJ Comp	2842.51	-14.88
NYSE Indust	706.88	-5.72
NYSE Transport	505.75	+0.4
NYSE Comp	570.22	-4.35
S&P 100	529	-5.39
S&P Spot Index	1095.14	-9.78

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5938	-54.2
Tokyo Nikkei	15143	-100.8
Singapore all-share Index	33802	0
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	9971.9	-137.2
Israel Index	238.4	-2.97
Paris CAC 40	3906.36	-41.09
DAX	5229.8	-2.23
Madrid	870.58	-2.72
Swiss Market Index	7585.2	-75
Sydney	2780.8	-7.2
Milan	1499.76	0

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6501	-0.0107
Jun.future (CME)	1.646	-0.0092
D-mark: spot	1.7669	+0.0019
Jun.future (CME)	0.5671	-0.0003
S-franc: spot	1.4724	-0.0008
Jun.future (CME)	0.6824	+0.001
Yen: spot	133.3	+0.21
Jun.future (CME)	0.007543	-9e-006
CanDlr: spot	1.4373	-0.0018
Jun.future (CME)	0.6961	+0.0004
AusDlr: spot	0.6377	+0.0007
Jun.future (CME)	0.6376	+0.0003
F-franc: spot	5.924	+0.004
It Lira: spot	1742	+1.5
Nlg: spot	1.8997	+0.0017
AuSchg: spot	12.4104	-0.0139
Pancf: spot	5.055	+0.01
ECU: spot	1.1152	-0.0022

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Jul) (CEC)	1722	+1
Coffee (Jul) (CEC)	127.25	+0.15
Wheat (Jul) (CBOT)	316	-0
Soybean (Jul) (CBOT)	659	+3
Sugar (Jul) (CEC)	9.06	+0.09
Orange juice (Jul)(CEC)	113.75	-0.5
Bonds Jun.future	120.344	-0
S and P Jun.future	1098.8	-8

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Jul) (LCE)	1134	+12
Coffee (Jul) (LCE)	1825	-18
Brent crude oil (Jun)(IPE)	1447	-3

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.97	+0.05

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Jun)	289.6	-2
Silver (Jul)	5.975	+0.057
Platinum (Jul)	393.6	-1.4
Palladium (Jun)	304.35	0
High-grade copper (Jul)	0.7956	-0.0245

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	289	-4.5
Gold PM fix	298.1	-2.9
Silver fix	588	-19.8

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 7-MAY-98)

Stocks mixed as Dead Sea Works declines

Tel Aviv

Stocks were mixed yesterday, with chemicals maker Dead Sea Works declining after saying first-quarter income dropped because of rising costs at its magnesium joint venture with Volkswagen AG.

Dead Sea Works, which makes potash for fertilizer and industrial use, declined 0.5 percent to 9.4 shekels. The Maof index of the 25 largest companies added 0.21 percent to 331.62, a 2.4 percent gain for the week.

First-quarter profit at Dead Sea Works dropped 15 percent to $9.4 million, or 3 cents a share, because of growing financing costs associated with a magnesium factory.

"The overall story is the costs of the magnesium plant. That is going to plague them for the future," said Martin Geifman, an analyst at Zannex Securities who has a "neutral" recommendation on the company. The earnings were "at the low-end" of expectations, he said.

Dead Sea parent Israel Chemicals Ltd. shed 1.3 percent to NIS 4.47. Analysts have also cited concern that US stocks might fall, dragging down Israeli companies with US-traded shares.

"If there are concerns about a drop" in the US, "no doubt we will see a decline here," said Avi Amiri, head trader at Bank Hapoalim. "In the last week, the market has behaved in accordance with what has happened abroad."

The market was led by drug-maker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which rose 2 percent to NIS 170. The Tel Aviv-100 Index of largest companies added 0.24 percent to 315.87 and finished the week up 2.8 percent.

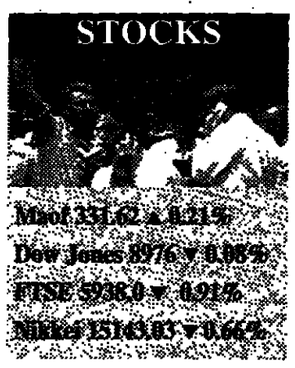
Asia

Stocks and currencies tumbled across most of Asia as the escalation of anti-government rioting in Indonesia compounded investors' worries about the region's future stability.

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 0.66 percent, closing at 15,143.03.

While the Indonesian rupiah plunged 14 percent and took other Southeast Asian currencies down with it, Jakarta's own benchmark stock index soared more than 5 percent. It was led by PT Indosat and other dollar-earning companies that benefit from the weaker rupiah. A nine-day run of losses also made Indonesian stocks like PT Telkom and PT Tambang Timah more attractive. South Korea's key index also rose, while stocks in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and the Philippines fell.

After three days of rioting in the city of Medan over hikes in the price of fuel, the first deaths were reported in confrontations between protesters and police.



Unconfirmed newspaper reports said six people died and 80 were injured.

The benchmark Jakarta Stock Market Composite Index rose 22.2 points, or 5.34 percent, to 436.8 after tumbling to a 16-week low yesterday.

Hong Kong stocks fell for a fourth day as concern over Indonesia's economic problems pushed local interest rates to their highest point in two months.

The benchmark Hang Seng index, already hovering at a three-month low, slumped for a seventh time in eight days.

Investors, who are eyeing falling Asian stock and currency markets and rising violence in Indonesia, demanded a higher return for assets denominated in Hong Kong dollars.

"If our currency can't move – and it can't – then something in the equation in Hong Kong has to give, and it's always interest rates," said James Robertson, sales director at Salomon Smith Barney Asia.

Europe

UK stocks fell along with markets abroad on concern over slowing profit in Asia and the threat of a rate rise in the US. Orange Plc and Standard Chartered Plc, which operate in Asia, led decliners.

"We're seeing general uncertainties on Southeast Asia," said Tim Rees, a director of U.K. equities at Clerical Medical Investment Group, which manages about 16 billion pounds in assets. "All the issues were there in the pot and this is as much to justify the market coming down as anything else."

The FTSE 100 Index slid 54.4 points to 5938.0, with Standard Chartered falling 6.7 percent and Orange losing 4.5 percent. The index has been slipping in recent weeks, having notched 20 record highs by April 6. Yesterday's 0.91 percent decline was the steepest in seven trading days.

"We're seeing this gradual buildup of bad news from Asia that is hurting the market," said Mark Gardner, a fund advisor at Julius Baer Investments Ltd., which manages about $41 billion worldwide.

(Bloomberg)

Wall Street

US stocks sank for a third straight session yesterday as attention shifted to Friday's key economic data after an uneventful public appearance by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 77.97 points — or 0.8 percent — to 8,976.68, down more than 200 points from Monday's record high of 9,192.66.

A big loss from Disney weighed heavily on the Dow, which recovered from several slides below 9,000 before capitulating during the final hour.

The decline came despite the news that Chrysler had agreed to be acquired by Germany's Daimler-Benz for stock initially valued at about $38 billion.

Stocks seesawed last week amid conflicting signals on whether the inflation-leery Fed might try to slow the economy with higher interest rates. But Greenspan provided no new clues.

The Standard and Poor's 500 fell 9.78 to 1,095.14, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 21.54 to 1,835.14.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by nearly a 2-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,019 up, 1,942 down and 537 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 581.62 million shares vs. 593.12 million in the previous session.

(AP)

Mark little changed amid German rate talk

The dollar was little changed against the mark, as speculation that European interest rates are headed higher offset a unexpected decline in German industrial production.

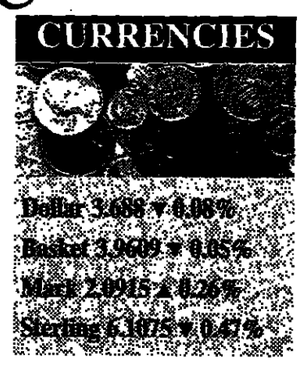
The US currency gave up gains after European Central Bank President-designate Wim Duisenberg said price stability hasn't yet been achieved in Europe. That fanned speculation Germany's central bank will raise its benchmark repurchase rate from 3.30 percent when it meets next week.

"The anticipation is that European rates in general will go higher before the finalization of monetary union," said Bill Bertha, manager or foreign exchange at Mellon Bank. Growing confidence in Europe's single currency, or euro, is "attracting a lot of funds now. Some people are getting out of the dollar," said Bertha, who predicts the dollar could fall to 1.70 marks by the end of June.

The dollar fell as low as 1.7605 marks from 1.7650 in late New York trading Wednesday, and was at 1.7637 marks. It was little changed at 133.04 yen from 133.17.

Higher German rates would boost the mark by bringing a better return on mark-denominated deposits.

The US currency rallied to 1.7723 marks earlier as an unexpected 1.0 percent decline in German industrial production in March raised doubts about whether that economy is strong enough to warrant higher rates. Economists projected an increase of 0.5 percent. Still, analysts said evidence of strength in Germany, including an expected decline in unemployment in a report today, will outweigh the production slump.



"I don't think the production figures show Germany's economic recovery is on the rocks," said Rebecca Patterson, a global currency strategist at J.P. Morgan.

"The strong mark trend is firmly in place. We expect the dollar to fall to 1.70 marks by the end of the year."

The dollar has fallen more than 5 percent against the mark since early April.

In other trading, the dollar was little changed against the yen. Earlier, it touched a one-month high as currencies and stocks in Japan and elsewhere in Asia fell. It pared those gains on speculation Japan may sell dollars to defend the yen.

Plunging stocks in Japan hurt the yen, because overseas investors who sell Japanese equities often convert the proceeds into other currencies. Falling Asian currencies and stocks are also bad for the yen, because they crimp Japanese exports and make it difficult for companies in the region to repay their yen-denominated debts.

"The dollar could reach 137 yen pretty soon, given so many negative factors surrounding the yen," said Yukihiko Hashimoto, senior manager for foreign exchange at Sanwa Bank Ltd. Even so, the dollar's climb was restrained because "traders were wary of possible intervention."

The Indonesian rupiah plunged as much as 16 percent to 10,200 per dollar as rioting in the country intensified and at least six people were reported killed. The rupiah bounced back to 9,350 to the dollar after the government raised interest rates.

Currencies and stock markets in Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore and the Philippines also declined. A growing number of analysts see this as a second wave of weakness in the region.

(Bloomberg)

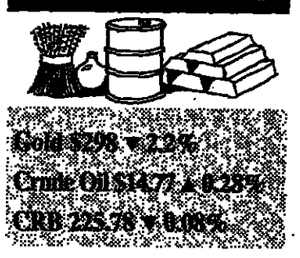
Palladium down on Russia export hopes

Precious Metals

Palladium fell in London after officials from the Russian export agency Almazyuvelirexport said precious metals shipments could resume in July, earlier than recent reports. Russia, the world's largest producer of palladium and the second largest supplier of platinum, has not exported either metal so far this year because of delays in granting export licenses. Palladium for immediate delivery fell $19.50 to $333 an ounce.

Oil

Crude oil for June delivery fell as much as 11 cents, or 0.7 percent, to $15.26 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. With world supplies exceeding demand, no further cuts in production are expected until at least after OPEC meets June 24 in Vienna. Ten members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and seven non-OPEC producers agreed in March to cut world supply by 2.3 percent. Five OPEC countries have so far told OPEC how much they produced in April. The figures show that Iran didn't achieve its promised cut, instead pumping more than the February benchmark against which cuts are to be measured. While traders speculated last week that producers were considering more cuts, none has been announced.



Others

Copper fell amid rising stockpiles of the metal. Inventories of copper monitored by the London Metal Exchange rose 4,325 metric tons to 266,200 tons, the exchange said in its daily warehouse report. Traders say that scrap merchants have been selling more old copper wires and pipes recently to take advantage of prices close to four-month highs. Copper for three months delivery fell $18.50 to $1,801.50 a ton on the LME.

Coffee gained amid lean supplies of London-traded robusta beans. Traders are concerned that riots in Indonesia will disrupt the flow of supplies from Asia's largest coffee producer. Hoarding of coffee by growers in Vietnam in recent months has reduced the supply of robusta available for delivery to European roasters. Robusta coffee is mainly used in blends of instant coffee. Coffee for July delivery rose $7 to $1,850 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds fall as investors brace for employment report

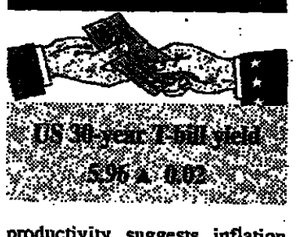
US bonds fell for the second time in three days as investors fretted today's report on April employment will suggest the economy is strong, keeping alive concern the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates.

"What's important is the payrolls report," said Terrence Pigott, head trader at Daiwa Securities America Inc. "I don't think there is going to be a lot happening between now and then."

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 1/4, or $2.50 per $1,000 bond, nudging its yield up 2 basis points to 5.96%. The two-year note's yield rose 3 basis points to 5.55%.

The Labor Department is expected to report the economy added 264,000 jobs last month, rebounding from a 36,000-job loss in March, according to the average forecast of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News. Average hourly earnings, meantime, probably rose 0.3%, the same as a month earlier.

Bonds slipped yesterday after the government said non-farm productivity, which measures the time and effort of providing goods and services, rose at an annual rate of 0.2% in the first quarter, the slowest in more than a year. Unit labor costs rose at a 3.8% rate in the first quarter. Slower productivity suggests inflation may speed up because technological gains are bearing less of the burden of keeping costs in check in a buoyant economy.



"Productivity has been one of the special factors that the Fed has looked at countering inflation a bit," said Dan Seto, economist at Nikko Securities Co. International. "It looks like in this quarter, that factor is fading."

Meantime, wholesale inventories rose 0.5% in March, and the number of workers applying for first-time unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week by 11,000, to 308,000, the government said.

Yesterday, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan was to deliver the keynote address at a Chicago Federal Reserve banking conference. Traders were on guard in case the central bank chief spoke about the economy or the outlook for interest rate policy. The Fed last adjusted its target for overnight lending between banks in March 1997, raising it by 25 basis points to 5.5%.

To be sure, with inflation running at just 1.4% in the last 12 months, some investors see little reason for the Fed to raise rates anytime soon. In addition, Asia's economic troubles may flare again, and weigh on US growth.

Bond yields fell more than half a percentage point last fall as international investors fled tumbling Asian markets and parked their money in safer US Treasuries.

(Bloomberg)

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.4.98)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.080
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.820
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.580
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.5.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.9297	3.9931	—	—	3.9609
U.S. dollar	3.6585	3.7176	3.59	3.77	3.6880
German mark	2.0745	2.1080	2.03	2.14	2.0915
Pound sterling	6.0665	6.1644	5.96	6.25	6.1075
French franc	0.6157	0.6287	0.60	0.64	0.6238
Japanese yen (100)	2.7562	2.8007	2.70	2.84	2.7770
Dutch florin	1.8405	1.8705	1.80	1.90	1.8563
Swiss franc	2.4958	2.5359	2.45	2.58	2.5135
Swedish krona	0.4832	0.4910	0.47	0.50	0.4873
Norwegian krone	0.4975	0.5056	0.48	0.52	0.5017
Danish krone	0.5436	0.5526	0.53	0.57	0.5483
Finnish mark	0.6827	0.6938	0.67	0.71	0.6881
Canadian dollar	2.5428	2.5839	2.49	2.62	2.5633
Australian dollar	2.3484	2.3640	2.28	2.40	2.3428
S. African rand	0.7224	0.7341	0.65	0.74	0.7283
Belgian franc (10)	1.0060	1.0223	0.98	1.04	1.0135
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9483	2.9959	2.89	3.04	2.9726
Italian lira (1000)	2.1036	2.1376	2.06	2.17	2.1192
Jordanian dinar	5.1419	5.2249	5.07	5.42	5.1816
Egyptian pound	1.0300	1.1200	1.03	1.12	1.0880
ECU	4.0885	4.1545	—	—	4.1223
Irish punt	5.2079	5.2919	5.11	5.37	5.2499
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4418	2.4812	2.39	2.52	2.4622

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

And First Lady Hillary Clinton's subsequent comments to children participating in the Seeds of Peace program, in which she said a Palestinian state would be in the long-term interests of the Middle East, "are disturbing, because it just reinforces the impression that's been created" of a shift in US policy, Hoenlein added.

Meanwhile, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said that if efforts to reach a final-status agreement fail, he favors reaching a non-belligerency agreement with the Palestinians until Israel can examine whether conditions exist for true peace.

In a speech to the annual conference of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Sharon said in such an arrangement, Israel could offer the PA greater territorial contiguity and ease Palestinians' movement within the territories. Israel would also declare and maintain "security zones" that would remain under full Israeli control.

He also said the peace process could best advance with a "crisis avoidance" mechanism for preventing a breakdown in the process when disagreements arise.

Sharon and Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurie, who shared the podium, later held separate meetings with Ross.

Sharon said that in his meeting here Wednesday with Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk, he discussed the possibility of trade-offs of increased territorial contiguity and free passage routes for the Palestinians in exchange for a redeployment that would not exceed 9 percent.

He added that he does not believe Monday's summit will occur, but that Netanyahu has told him to remain in the US on "standby" with the possibility of being recalled for Sunday's cabinet meeting.

Reminded that Arafat has already rejected Netanyahu's proposal on trade-offs, Sharon responded: "He rejects it – so what? That means if Arafat rejects it, that we have to give up? He'll reject it, so he will not get anything. He has to decide what's better."

Albright's comments in a Financial Times interview after the abrasive end of last Sunday's and Monday's talks in London, seemed to reflect a softening of her initial position.

Rather than reiterate her original terms for Israeli and Palestinian participation in the Washington summit – that it be predicated on acceptance of the US formula for the IDF's next redeployment – Albright talked about the possibility that Netanyahu and Arafat may move toward consensus.

"The hope is that they will reconnect," she said.

A more tangible sign the US is training its sights on the Monday summit could be seen in Ambassador Edward Walker's sudden departure for Washington today.

US Embassy press attache Richard Scorza said Netanyahu's scheduled presence in Washington next week for the AIPAC conference and the American Jewish Committee made it essential for the ambassador to be there, too.

Albright held talks yesterday with Prime Minister Tony Blair and said afterwards "we'll see" when asked about the Monday summit.

Blair's spokesman said the two reviewed this week's inconclusive London talks.

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday Arafat will not fly to Washington on Monday unless Israel is prepared to sign a pledge to immediately implement an IDF withdrawal in the West Bank.

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that Arafat will not agree to any more negotiations with Israel.

"In Washington, there will not be any negotiations," he said. "It will be a meeting to sign an agreement."

To Our Readers

هكذا من الأعلى

Enter Milo, Stage Center

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo has set political circles abuzz by announcing his bid for the premiership – but he could find himself strengthening the small parties he's trying to destroy, writes Herb Keinon

Tel Aviv mayor Ronni Milo cloaked himself in the mantle of the Great Reformer at his Monday news conference, declaring – amid reverberations from the *Jubilee Bells* – that he is going to break the back of the religious parties.

But in what may very well turn out to be the great paradox of this political season, Milo – by throwing his hat into the ring – could actually lead to the strengthening of the small parties he is trying to destroy.

First of all, said Ruth Amir, a Haifa University political scientist, his entrance into the race will strengthen the importance of the small parties even before the elections. This will give them the ability to ask more from the coalition because of a realization that with another party on the horizon, the government will want to keep them even happier than before.

And if Milo's party succeeds in getting enough votes to passing the electoral threshold for Knesset seats, there will be yet another small party – with its own demands – involved in the coalition bargaining.

Amir said that coalition blackmail is – obviously – not only the purview of the haredim, but that other small parties do it as well. A plethora of small parties, will only increase the pressure they can level on the government.

"One thing is certain," Amir said, "this has added to a climate of political uncertainty." As a result, the large parties are likely to be willing to give in more to the demands of small parties, because they do not know what will happen in the new situation.

According to Ya'acov Katz, a pollster and head of the institute for sociological research at Bar-Ilan University's school of education, the religious parties have benefitted in the past from these types of "religious wars." As more players move into the ring, no one can afford to alienate the religious parties, Katz said.

An indication that the desire to placate the religious parties is already in force, Katz said, was the Meretz-sponsored bill calling for the separation of religion and state that was voted down on Wednesday in the Knesset. It was opposed by nine of 16 Labor MKs who took part in the vote.

Some analysts believe that Milo's stridently anti-religious rhetoric could move some voters from the big parties to one of the religious parties, out of a feeling of being threatened.

"I am completely secular," said Hebrew University political scientist Avraham Diskin, but I don't like what happened with the [Batsheva] dance at the *Jubilee Bells*, and how that issue is being used. I don't identify with the secular side on that issue in any way. Let's say it was the same dance, a dance that won all kind of international acclaim, but instead of setting it to the song *'Ehad Mi Yodea,'* they set it to *'Allah akbar.'* No one would have agreed to it, and I say that as someone completely secular. So think about what is going through the mind of someone who kisses a mezuza, but drives on Shabbat. They will likely say, 'What is it with those leftists making fun of God?' There may very well be something to the idea that there will be a backlash from traditional voters."

While the religious parties may be winners as a result of Milo's move, ideology could end up a big loser, as more and more candidates move to the undefined and amorphous center, said political scientist Amir. "What we are seeing is increasing fragmentation, and less of an emphasis on ideology." Amir envisions that more and more deals with parties that represent different sectors will be made, while those parties that do not represent any defined sectors will clamor toward the crowded center, where ideology will be blurred.

In addition to citing ideology as a big loser as a result of Milo's move, Diskin said the decision was motivated by Milo feeling that he "was dead" inside the Likud. "I think he took the step because he understood that he was in a losing situation, and that when you have your back against the wall, you try different venues."

One of Milo's new problems, or at least a problem that will emerge after his term as mayor expires, will be to figure out how to remain in the news. "As mayor he was in the public eye, he was in the news" said Bar-Ilan political science professor Shmuel Sandler. "But now what? Look at David Levy – he can't keep *his* name in the news, and he was foreign minister and is still an MK."

Milo will soon be neither mayor nor MK.

As to whether Ehud Barak or Binyamin Netanyahu stands to benefit more from the incident, the pollster Katz said a survey he conducted the day after Milo's announcement showed that Milo would receive 12 percent of the vote, with more than 70 % of those votes coming from former Barak supporters, and another 30 % from Netanyahu. But Milo's support will drop as the drama of the initial announcement wears off, Katz said. "After David Levy split from Likud, he received some 16% in the polls. Now that number is down below 10% ." The same, he said, is likely to happen to Milo.

In the first round for prime minister, said Hebrew University's Diskin, "I imagine Milo will take more votes from the Left. If we are talking about the prime minister's race, that means in the first round he will cause more damage to Barak than to Netanyahu. In the second round we simply don't know, since there has never been a precedent for this."

Even if none of the candidates goes over the 50% threshold for prime minister in the first round, thereby setting up a second round, the results of the first vote will undoubtedly have a psychological impact. "Think it through," Diskin said. "If Netanyahu gets 49% to 35% for Barak in the first round, you would be surprised if he didn't win the second round. There is a psychological impact, the bandwagon effect. There is also the underdog effect as well, but I think that in this case the bandwagon effect would be stronger."





Who's got more to lose – Barak or Netanyahu?
(Ariel Jerozolimski; Efraim Kilshtok)

In the first round for prime minister, "I imagine Milo will take more votes from the Left. In the second round, we simply don't know"

- Prof. Avraham Diskin



In the limelight, but for how long? Ronni Milo announces his candidacy at a press conference on Monday. (Israel Sun)

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To Our Readers

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

The Advertising Department

KAV LA'OVED
The Worker's Hotline
78 Allenby St., Tel Aviv. Registered non-profit organization

Workers Rights

The following rights are some of what Israeli labor law demands that all workers in Israel, legal or illegal, receive from their employers.

Minimum Wage: NIS 2609 (US$700) for 186 hours of work a month (14.03 NIS/hour).
Travel Allowance. Workers who pay their own transportation expenses to work must be reimbursed by their employers for this expense up to NIS 16.66 per day.
Annual Vacation. Every worker is entitled to 12 days of paid holiday a year (in addition to Shabbat).
Holidays. After 3 months workers are entitled to 9 days off for religious holidays. If the holiday falls on Shabbat, the worker is not paid for that holiday.
Recuperation Pay. After one full year of work every worker is entitled to 5 days of recuperation pay at a rate of NIS 245 per day.
Payment of wages. Workers salaries must be paid no later than 10th of the following month.
Sick Pay. Workers absent from work due to illness should be paid 75% of their wages (starting with the 3rd day) upon presenting doctor's note.
Severance Pay. Workers fired after at least one full year of work must be paid severance pay at a rate of one month's salary for every year worked.

Important to Know

- No employer or agency is allowed to hold or confiscate your passport. If your passport is being held against your will, you may file a complaint with the police to get it back.
- No employer or agency can deport you from Israel. Only the police can issue a deportation order and force a worker to leave the country.
- Make sure that your employer is not taking illegal deductions from your salary. If you suspect this, you can bring your salary slip to Kav la'Oved or the Ministry of Labor to be examined.
- Every foreign migrant worker (registered or not) can open up a NIS bank account at any bank in Israel upon presentation of a passport.

If you have any questions or believe that your rights have been violated call:
Kav La'Oved. Sunday - Thursday 12:00-17:00 and Friday 9:00-13:00. Telephone 03-5102266, 03-5101366. Monday and Thursday 16:00-18:00.
Jerusalem office: 2 Yitzhak Elhanan St., opp. Laromme Hotel. Tel. 051-300804

Government Office of Information
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
The Chaim Herzog Center For Middle East Studies & Diplomacy

"Diplomacy and the Media in the Middle East"
The interplay between Diplomacy and the Media and its effect on the Middle East
In Memory of Chaim Herzog - The Sixth President of the State of Israel

Opening: Sunday May 10th, The Center for Environmental Studies. 80 Rokach St., Tel Aviv

Programme:
20:00 - Reception
20:30 - Opening Session
Chairman: Dr. Dror Ze'evi, Chair, Chaim Herzog Center
Presentations: Prof. Dov Shinar, Ben-Gurion University
Sir John Coles, Former Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, U.K
M.K. Shimon Peres, Former Prime Minister of Israel
Response: Ehud Ya'ari, Israel Television

By invitation only

Monday, May 11: The Sonnenfeldt Auditorium, Ben-Gurion University

8:45 a.m. - Registration

9:15 - Greetings:
Prof. Avishay Braverman President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Yair Galor, Government Office of Information

9:30-10:45 - Plenary Session I: "Diplomacy and the Media"
Chairman: Dr. Zvi Shtauber, Vice-President, Ben-Gurion University
* Mrs. Colette Avital, Ambassador, Deputy Director-General for Western European affairs, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Diplomacy and Communications"
* Mr. Jamil Hamad, Middle East Correspondent, Time Magazine, "Media Coverage of the Peace Process in the Arab States"
* Dr. Ron Pundik, Executive Director of the Economic Corporation Foundation "Secret Negotiations and the Media"

11:00-12:15 - Plenary Session II: "Media, Public Opinion and the Peace Process"
Chairman: Prof. David Newman, Head, Department of Politics and Government, Ben-Gurion University
* Dr. Oded Eran, Israeli Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan "Israeli-Jordanian Relations as Reflected in the Media"
* Dr. Yoram Peri, Dept. of Communications and Journalism, Hebrew University "From Foe to Neighbor: The Change in Media Reaction to the 'Other Side' Following the Israeli-Jordanian Peace Agreement"
* Prof. Akiba A. Cohen, Chairman, Department of Communications, Tel Aviv University "American and Israeli Media"

12:30-13:30 - Plenary Session III: "Tuxedoes and Cameras"
Chairman: Prof. Avishay Braverman, President, Ben-Gurion University
* Eitan Bentzur, Director General, Israeli Foreign Ministry, "Foreign Policy and the Media: Interrelations and the Israeli Experience"
* Mr. Nachman Shai, Director-General of 2nd Television and Radio Authority, "Diplomacy Through Television"

13:30 - Break for Lunch

14:15-15:30 - Plenary Session IV: Who's Leading Whom - Round Table Discussion with the participation of:
Chairman: Mr. Dan Pattir, 2nd Television and Radio Authority
Mr. Moshe Raviv, Former Israeli Ambassador to Great Britain, Mrs. Michal Sela, Journalist, Dr. Aryeh Naor, School of Management, BGU, Dr. Zaki Shalom, The Ben Gurion Research Center, BGU

15:30 - Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 - Plenary Session V: "Diplomacy and the Politics of Ratings"
Chairman: Dr. Dror Ze'evi, Chair, Chaim Herzog Center, BGU
* Mr. Chaim Yavin, Channel 2, "Television: Conflict, Confrontation and Rating"
* Mr. Bob Simon, Middle East correspondent, CBS News, "Big Powers and Little Screens: "Who Sets the Agenda?"
* Mr. Shalom Kital, CEO and Editor-in-chief, Channel 2 News Company "How is Terrorism Recorded in the Media?"
* Mr. Elimelech Ram, Television, IBA "Media Manipulation and Public Opinion?"

Open to the Public

Training the IDF on the target

Whoever becomes the army's top man – whether it's Matan Vilna'i or Shaul Mofaz – he'll face a daunting task: keeping the IDF up to snuff in an era of growing missile threats. Arieh O' Sullivan reports

On July 9, 1998 the new chief of general staff, whether it is Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz or Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, will face the tough job of giving the IDF a longer reach to cope with a widening circle of enemies who are amassing weapons of mass destruction.

He will also face the challenge of waging an increasingly expensive high-tech war while an economically contented public grows less and less willing to foot the bill.

The new CGS will be taking over one of the world's foremost sophisticated and, relatively speaking, highly motivated forces, but one that is crying out for direction in order to consolidate its strategic goals and requirements.

While no decision has yet been made, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai appears to be backing Mofaz, 50, the deputy chief of general staff, for the military's top job. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reportedly backs Mofaz's predecessor, Vilna'i, to succeed Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak.

Mordechai is required by Basic Law: The Army (1976) to bring his recommendation for cabinet approval. He is expected to do so on Sunday. If the better qualified Vilna'i, who everyone has assumed would get the post, does not, he is likely to leave the IDF.

In any event, the new chief of general staff will not have the luxury of making a Camelot-like entrance, since he will be taking command following one of the most acrimonious battles for the position that this country has ever seen.

If Mofaz is chosen, he will have to work hard to shake his stigma of being "second best," "unripe" and his critics will likely say he was chosen mainly as Mordechai's immigrant Sephardi candidate.

If Vilna'i gets the nod, he will have to work hard to get rid of the bad blood between himself and Mordechai that has simmered for years and boiled over during the drawn out weeks of selection.

One of the very first tasks of the designated CGS will be to coordinate a reshuffle of other general staff members with Mordechai. They will have to appoint a new deputy, and a replacement for Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, the OC Northern Command, who is leaving shortly to become deputy head of the Mossad.

It is widely believed that OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe "Boogie" Ya'alon will get the Northern Command post.

The IDF has undergone momentous upheavals in its 50-year history, but most occurred following the wars of a generation ago. The new CGS's tenure comes while the army has been restructuring to face radically changing threats.

Shahak's main tasks involved carrying on with a makeover of the IDF and integrating lessons learned in the Gulf War, alongside redeployment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The new CGS may have to focus more than his predecessors on the growing threat to the nation of coming under attack by weapons of mass destruction.

Paradoxically, this threat comes amid an albeit rocky but persisting peace process with our immediate neighbors.

According to the latest annual intelligence assessment, the "window of opportunity" or the unprecedented quiet strategic environment that greeted Shahak, is closing. The changing circumstances will force the designated CGS to address the needs of the future battlefield, while boosting the IDF's war readiness.

Last February's Iraqi scare of a chemical and biological attack on the home front was just a dress rehearsal for what the army chief has to prepare for.

The IDF of the year 2000 will be based on a long-range strike capability, real-time intelligence capabilities and smarter precision-guided weaponry. It has invested heavily in sophisticated defense systems, like the Arrow missile, the long-range Homa radar system and the Katyusha-hunting Nautilus laser gun. All are to be deployed during the course of the next CGS's tenure.

The IDF has also embarked on a space program, including the launch of Ofek, a military spy satellite.

The new CGS will inherit what *Jane's Intelligence Review* calls the "most powerful deployed tactical air force... and more combat-ready heavy divisions than NATO can deploy in Europe."

He will also have to deal with a controversial presence in southern Lebanon, where more soldiers have been killed in the past two years than in the previous nine.

The Defense Ministry has proposed a plan to withdraw from the security zone based on UN Security Council Resolution 425, which means that the new CGS may find himself in charge of such an endeavor.

Yet one of his most important tasks would be to shield the IDF's weak point from further exposure – its budget.

Of the NIS 32.6 billion defense budget, less than NIS 20 billion goes to the IDF. The IDF has seen four consecutive long-term plans collapse, mainly for lack of funds. Much of the blame falls on the Finance Ministry which has consistently refused to make budget commitments beyond the immediate year, thereby limiting the army's multi-year plans.

Both Mofaz and Vilna'i have helped draft the next five-year plan called Era 2003 slated for implementation next year. Its fundamental premise is the need to face looming war threats. Last year the IDF spent NIS 1 billion to replenish its stockpiles.

Following the 1973 war, Israel invested heavily in materiel, increasing its tank force alone by 50 percent, artillery by 100% and armored personnel carriers by 800%. A generation later, the new chief of general staff is burdened by the need to replace this sleeping monster with more sophisticated equipment.

The assumption in the IDF is that neither peace nor war will come in the next several years, which means the CGS may be forced to prepare for the worst. But it also means that the IDF will be reducing its number of tanks, armored personnel carriers and field artillery pieces and replacing them with better quality, and much more expensive, modern tanks like the Merkava Mark III and Mark IV. It will also be needing precision-guided MLRS rockets and more attack helicopters.

The IDF will also have to pick out its next generation fighter jets.

Yet the CGS, along with the entire defense establishment, faces a public weary and less willing to pay for an expensive defense burden, particularly in the presence of a peace process.

The defense budget has actually dropped dramatically since 1973, when it amounted to nearly half of the GDP. Today it is about 10% of the GDP and 12% of the state budget.

See IDF, Page 22

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Reality or rhetoric?

Yasser Arafat and his aides view the prospect of declaring statehood next year as a way to mount pressure on Israel. But Palestinian critics question its motives, timing and whether it will actually change anything, reports Steve Rodan



These days, Palestinian intellectuals are engaged in soul-searching as they commemorate 50 years since the "disaster" of the birth of the State of Israel.

Their big questions, explored in numerous forums sponsored by the Palestinian Authority as well as by private groups, boil down to this: What did we do wrong in 1948 to allow the Jews to take over our land and how do we ensure that this never happens again?

Senior PA officials usually sound upbeat about the answers. Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman, for example, says: "The [Palestinian] people faced the Israelis in 1948 without a central leadership. [But] for the first time, there is a Palestinian Authority, with [a] Palestinian possibility to defend Palestine."

Finance Minister Mohammed Zohdi Nashashibi says the Palestinians 50 years ago did not understand either the Zionists or the international community that voted in the United Nations for the establishment of a Jewish state. That, too, has changed.

Senior PA officials say these lessons will make all the difference when Yasser Arafat fulfills his promise next May to declare a Palestinian state.

May 5, 1999 will mark five years since the signing of the Cairo Accord. Palestinians maintain that at the end of the five-year transitional period, mentioned in the accord's preamble, they have the right to declare a state. If Arafat goes ahead with the move, that is when he is likely to do it.

This time, Arafat supporters say, his declaration will win the support of the entire world and Israel will be seen as an occupier on Palestinian soil – whether in the West Bank or Jerusalem.

"All options are open now for the Palestinian people," Nashashibi says.

But Palestinian critics say Arafat's pledge is a way to salvage his decreasing domestic support and to restrain both his own Fatah movement and the Islamic opposition from launching attacks against Israel. Fears of such attacks are increasing after the failure of the London talks and the expected collapse of similar efforts next week in Washington.

They question Arafat's timing and the usefulness of the declaration of a state as well as whether the Palestinians can resist any Israeli attempt to quash their independence.

"Arafat doesn't say what he means with this announcement," says Hatem Abdul Khader, a Palestinian Legislative Council member from Jerusalem and a Fatah member. "The announcement is nothing.

"What he does on the ground is important. We in the PLC have asked him what he will do after he announces a state next year. We have not received clear answers."

Ghassan Khatib, director of the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, agrees. "So far, he [Arafat] has an intention," he says. "He did not make it clear yet what this would be practically. I assume his aides know what he means and are preparing for the consequences from the Israeli side. Nothing has been made public except for the declaration."

Khatib says Palestinians are debating whether an announcement of an independent Palestinian state will result in the type of international recognition and support needed to sustain such an entity.

A leading Palestinian analyst who asked not to be identified says Arafat's pledge to declare a Palestinian state next year doesn't make sense. He points out that in 1988 Arafat declared a Palestinian state at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers.

"So, wait, if he announced it once already, why do it a second time?" asks the analyst, who has close ties with senior PA officials.

"If he does it again does that mean the first time Arafat made the announcement the declaration of independence was annulled? How much mileage does he think he can get by repeating the same act?"

Many Palestinians, including Arafat supporters, agree that the authority appears paralyzed. Municipal elections, which have been delayed since 1996, have not been scheduled.

In Gaza, the vacated seat of PLC chairman Haider Abdul Shafi, who quit the council and deemed it ineffective, had no takers until very recently. Until senior PA officials intervened, would-be candidates for the election later this month were more concerned over not hurting Abdul Shafi's feelings than tempted by the perks of being a Palestinian legislator.

Arafat himself has delayed all domestic decisions. A promised cabinet reshuffle has not been implemented. For two months, Arafat refused to accept Attorney-General Fayez Abu Rahme's resignation – submitted because according to human rights activists his orders were ignored by PA security agencies. Abu Rahme finally walked out.

Judges who have tried to maintain independence have been forced to resign. And, except for a select few, criticism of the PA is no longer tolerated.

"This past year has been characterized by attacks on academic freedom and freedom of expression," says Bassem Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, which this week released a report on widespread PA arrest and torture in the wake of the death of Hamas bomb maker Muhieddin Sharif. "We can't say that the PA has made any improvements in human rights."

Fatah leaders are frustrated with the paralysis. Some of them limit their ambitions to installing traffic lights in their neighborhoods to improve safety. Others talk about establishing a McDonalds franchise in such places as Hebron.

"Their attitude is that we have to wait until history makes changes," a Palestinian source close to Fatah leaders say.

Still, some Fatah leaders hope Arafat's declaration will lead to real changes. For example, PLC member Hisham Abdul Razik of Gaza says Arafat's declaring a state would achieve immediate results.

"I think there is a very clear difference between now and 1988," he says. "Then, in 1988, he set a goal. Today, when there is an agreement and he announces a state on Palestinian land, this is reality. It's no longer an idea..."

But Abdul Razik does not share Arafat's call for restraint until next May. "If Netanyahu thinks the Palestinians will be content to live in a prison, he is dreaming," he says. "I don't think that the Palestinians have to be patient another year."

Abdul Khader, the PLC member from Jerusalem, does not foresee Palestinian attacks on Israel soon. "The PA is not interested in an explosion of this situation," he says. "It wants to delay the explosion in accordance with the political situation. It's easy to know how to start an explosion but it's difficult to control it."

For his part, Arafat appears so subdued in public that many Palestinians are convinced he is either ill or has undergone a change of heart regarding the limitations of the process. During a visit on Wednesday to Algeria, Arafat appeared to be sleep-walking, his voice hoarse.

Moreover, his statements are peppered with mystical references.

In a recent interview on Egyptian Orbit satellite television, the PA leader compared his plight to that of Islamic leaders Mohammed and Salah Eddin, both of whom reached interim agreements with their sworn enemies. He repeated that he does not want terrorist attacks on Israel because this would delay IDF withdrawals.

"This giant people will produce 100,000 Arafats," he said. "We are a nation of giants that has been coping with world Zionism for 101 years. We are capable of starting all over again. I say this not in the name of Arafat, but in the name of the new generals."

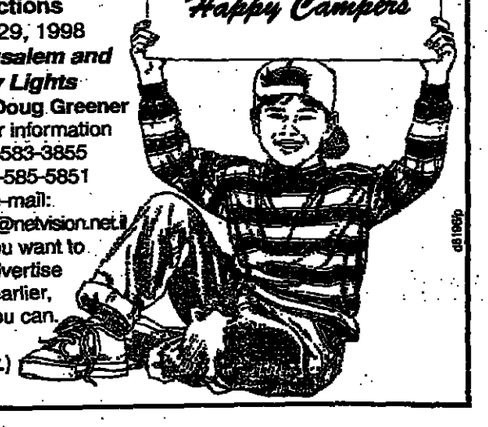
To one leading Palestinian Arafat-watcher, who declined to be identified, the PA leader chose his words carefully. "Arafat will never admit it," he says, "but he has come to terms that he will not achieve any of his dreams. The Oslo process has not turned out at all as he expected. He is quietly saying, 'I did what I could. Let the new generation now try.'"

But, if anything, Arafat's aides are building a larger image of their boss than ever before. PA officials say the new Gaza airport will be named after Arafat. His appearances dominate nightly PA television – with the Palestinian leader seen shaking hands and kissing women and children.

Most analysts agree that as the date of Palestinian statehood approaches, Arafat's role and his authority will be increasingly examined by the Palestinian people.

"There are two contradicting approaches in the nature of the state of entity that is being built," Khatib, of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center, says. "There is a approach of the Palestinian leadership that came from abroad that is used to the situation where everything revolves around the leader. This approach is being contradicted by the majority of the Palestinians who have lived under occupation and want a decent life. We are witnessing a struggle – not a violent one – between two approaches."

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A clampdown on culture?

With the cries of pain and outrage following last week's Batsheva dance fiasco still resounding, Larry Derfner looks at how much censorship has really been exerted on local TV and theater

On Monday night's *Popolitika* talk show, entertainer Gidi Gov spoke for Israel's artistic community in warning that the Batsheva Dance Company scandal was a sign of escalating religious censorship of free expression. Asked, however, if his variety show, *Laila Gov* on Channel 2, was subject to censorship, Gov replied with satisfaction, "God forbid."

In his opening monologue on his Wednesday night program, Gov told a joke which included a play on words suggesting that the haredim were "sick." In a skit referring to this week's State Comptroller's Report about haredim getting hundreds of millions of shekels in government aid they weren't entitled to, Gov played a hapless fellow handing over stacks of money to one eager haredi after another until he was left with nothing but a sandwich – then the haredim took that from him, too.

Pretty strong stuff. Nothing to make Israel's religious establishment happy.

But the earth didn't shake. *Laila Gov* is still scheduled to go on the air, uncensored, next Wednesday night.

Ever since pressure by politicians from the National Religious Party, United Torah Judaism and Shas led the Batsheva Dance Co. to cancel its performance at the *Jubilee Bells* show – which was to have included a scene of dancers stripping down to shorts and body shirts while singing from the Haggadda "*Ehad mi Yodea*" ("Who Knows One") – Israel's entertainers and artists have been up in arms.

The day after *Jubilee Bells* about 300 of them lay in wait at the Diaspora Museum for a visit by the NRP's Education and Culture Minister Yitzhak Levy and Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom. Some of the entertainers defiantly took off their shirts and blouses. A few shouted "Fascist," "Khomeini," and even "dirty Jew" at Levy and Yahalom, decrying what they view as "censorship."

This week Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo cited the censorship of Batsheva's performance as the precipitate reason for his decision to run for prime minister.

But even if the word "censorship" isn't understood as being literal, and is used in the sense of any kind of pressure – in this case by the religious – that constrains artists from expressing themselves, it is hard to find evidence in Israel of real censorship – other than military.

Rabbis and religious politicians may shout "Sacrilege!" and "Anti-semitism!" and even try to use their power and influence to rein artists in, but it doesn't seem to work.

About a year-and-a-half ago, religious politicians were screaming about comedian Gil Kopatch, who was doing racy, irreverent Torah commentaries on the Friday night entertainment program *Closing The Week With Yair Lapid* on Channel 1. "You see, Moses liked to dance with his *bulbul* [penis] hanging out," was one Kopatchism cited by the religious as evidence why the comedian should be muzzled. But after Kopatch gave a brilliant, Lenny Bruce-style defense before the Knesset Education Committee, Lapid opened his show with the announcement, "The country belongs to everybody, the Torah belongs to everybody, God belongs to everybody and Kopatch will be on tonight." The audience cheered triumphantly. Lapid soon left the show for cable TV, but Kopatch continued to appear, to the delight of his fans and the gradual indifference of his enemies.

The Cameri Quintet caught plenty of flak from religious politicians, especially Yahalom, during its five seasons on Channel 1 and 2, during which it did far sexier stuff than Kopatch ever tried, and satirized every pocket of hypocrisy and complacency in Israeli society, including the religious.

One skit showed a rabbi preparing a bar mitzva boy by reading him some of the more off-color passages from the Torah. As with Kopatch, there were many calls to water down the Cameri Quintet's skits or get them off the air, but these failed.

"There was no censorship of us, and there was no self-censorship for fear of what the reaction would be," said Arik Bernstein, a coproducer of the Quintet's show. "But I don't know about all the times that people got angry, because [former Israel Broadcasting Authority chief] Mordechai Kirschenbaum kept it away from us. He protected us, absolutely, very, very much so."

"Am I going to tell Habimah what plays to put on? I couldn't even if I wanted to, which I don't" – Micha Yinon, Education & Culture Ministry

A common fear among entertainers is that Kirschenbaum's recent successor, Uri Porat, who ran the IBA during most of the Shamir administration before his current appointment by Prime Minister Netanyahu, will make it clear that artists cannot step on the religious establishment's toes with impunity as they could before.

But Porat, according to a spokeswoman, insists he has no intention of interfering with what entertainers say or do, as long as the programs on which they appear are "balanced" – offering a forum for different and opposing views. He would not have touched the Cameri Quintet's scripts, and would only have wanted *Closing The Week* to offer a "balancing" voice to Kopatch's, however this unclear goal might be achieved. In Porat's view, "freedom does not mean anarchy," said the spokeswoman.

Meretz's former leader Shulamit Aloni, however, is worried that the rising power of the religious and religious right will have a chilling effect on artists. She cited NRP MK Zvi Hendel's attempt to have Amos Oz's Israel Prize for Literature revoked because of a decade-old speech in which Oz described Gush Emunim as "a cruel, messianic cult." Reminded that the Supreme Court threw out Hendel's petition, the former Education and Culture minister said, "But I don't know if the Supreme Court will throw out such a petition tomorrow. The judges live in the same world as we all do."

Yet Aloni argues that the real threat to freedom of expression is not so much religious censorship as religious power over budgets allocated to cultural institutions. Since the NRP took over the education and culture portfolio, and especially since Levy succeeded the late Zvulun Hammer as minister, she charged, there has been a policy to "dry up" these institutions. "Censorship can also take the form of building new mikves but not new cultural institutions; of letting people hear, 'Moshiach, Moshiach,' and the Lubavitcher Rebbe, but not Goethe, Schiller and the Greek classics," she said.

Providing specifics, Yossi Frost, currently an adviser to artistic groups and formerly Aloni's director-general in the Education and Culture Ministry, said the current ministry has drastically reduced or totally done away with funds for a number of institutions. Funds for "quality" feature films and documentaries, for translations of classics into Hebrew and of Hebrew literature into foreign languages, have had their budgets devastated, he said. The Sam Spiegel School for Cinema has lost millions of shekels to the NRP-sponsored Ma'aleh School for Cinema and Television, he added. Omanut L'Am (Art for the People), which subsidizes theatrical and musical performances in development towns, has not only had its budget gutted, "but Micha Yinon, head of the cultural administration in the ministry, has even demanded to see the content of the productions, which Hammer never dared to do," said Frost, who founded Omanut L'Am in the 1980s.

Yet at the same time, Frost acknowledged that these cuts to "secular" culture "are in line with the across-the-board cuts the government ordered to all budgets. As far as I know, they are not discriminatory."

Yinon, an NRP man who was chairman of the IBA's executive board during the Shamir and Rabin administrations, pronounced Frost's charges "nonsense." He said the only ministry cuts to cultural institutions he knows of are the 2 percent cost-of-living increases they won't be getting because inflation is down. The transfer of funds from the Spiegel school to the Ma'aleh school will be rectified in a matter of weeks, he said, adding that his goal is not to cut the Spiegel budget, but only to raise Ma'aleh's, which would "end the years of budgetary discrimination against Ma'aleh, which has just as many students as the Spiegel school and many of the same teachers."

As for Omanut L'Am, Yinon said he only wants the organization to use its money to find larger, younger audiences. "I'm not interested in the content of the productions they subsidize. Am I going to tell Habimah what plays to put on? I couldn't do it even if I wanted to, which I don't. There are courts and laws in this country, and the law permitting censorship of plays and films is no longer on the books," he said. (The Theater Censorship Board was dissolved in the late 1980s.)

Frost noted that Aloni had tripled the ministry's annual cultural budget to NIS 270 million, and added, "I'm afraid that this budget may be whittled down to where it stood before." Yinon pointed out that the current annual budget for culture is NIS 317 million. "My goal is to make it NIS 500 million for next year, and ultimately to make it 10 times larger than it is today," he said.

As for the Batsheva Dance Co., its budget for this year stands at NIS 5.1 million – up from NIS 4.3 million last year, Yinon noted.

Since the *Jubilee Bells* fiasco, Levy and Yinon have been at great pains to convince artistic directors that their theaters, symphonies and schools will continue to be supported in the manner to which they've grown accustomed. "I will defend them, and if there is any attempt to 'dry them up,' I will not be a part of it," Yinon pledged.

Aloni, Frost and Bernstein echoed the suspicion of many artists that Levy, a rabbi and former yeshiva head, will be far less sympathetic to the arts – in financial support and non-interference with their content – than was Hammer. "Levy is a rabbi – he won't even touch a woman's hand, he's never been to the theater," said Aloni.

Yinon allowed that because of Levy's background, "it's natural that he hasn't been exposed to this world as much as Hammer was. But he's not hostile to it, and since he became minister he's started trying to become more familiar with it. He's gone to the Philharmonic and the theater."

One play Levy saw was Habimah's *Milhemet Ahim* (Civil War), which draws a parallel between Jewish extremism before the destruction of the Second Temple and Jewish extremism in today's Israel.

What did Levy think of the play? "He thought it was terrible," Yinon said, "but that's his right. It doesn't mean he's going to cut off funds to Habimah or make them change the words of the play."



Demonstrators showing solidarity with the Batsheva Dance Co. call for artistic freedom. (Effi Sharir)

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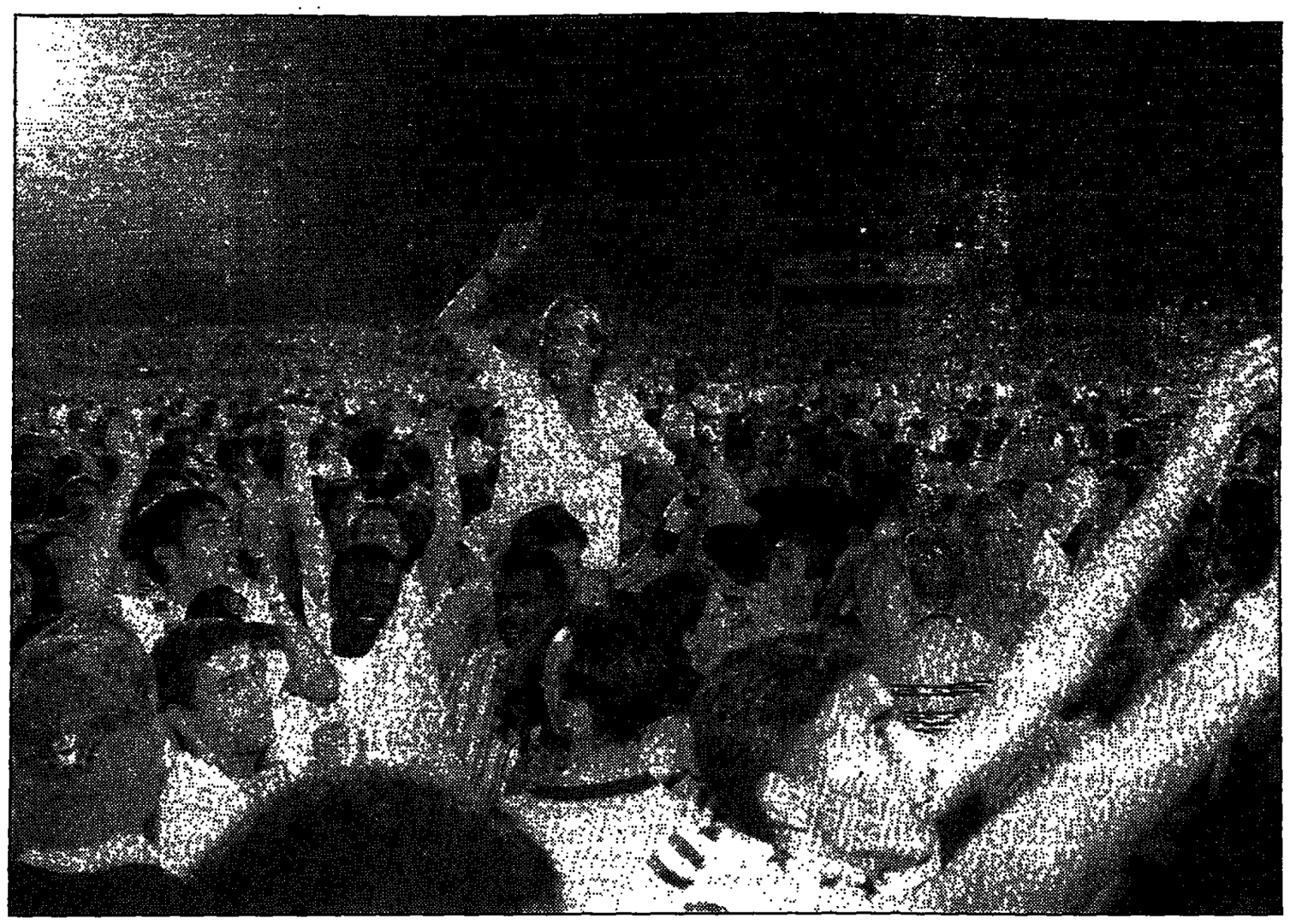
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So much more than just a soccer game

If sports is a reflection of reality, last week's game between Hapoel Beit She'an and Betar Jerusalem afforded a disquieting view of the tensions bubbling beneath society's surface. Herb Keinon reports



Betar Jerusalem fans at Saturday's controversial game. They have a champion team but still view themselves as underdogs. (Adi Avishai)

The atmosphere in Mahaneh Yehuda on Tuesday afternoon was charged; it felt like election time.

The right words to the right merchant triggered a verbal outburst that ignited a chain-reaction of similar eruptions from vendors nearby. First a vegetable peddler screamed, then a pickle-man across the way yelled, then a fruit salesman hollered.

The right words – this week – were "Hapoel Tel Aviv."

"A bunch of crybabies," said Haim Yitzhak, a fruit and pastry vendor.

"Leftists who can't stand to see us win," said the pickle-and-cheese man across from him.

"Elitist snobs," added Yitzhak Shimon, busy stacking tomatoes.

Their anger was the result of the controversy swirling around the Betar Jerusalem-Hapoel Beit She'an football match played last Shabbat in Haifa. That game did for Right-Left, Sephardi-Ashkenazi, development town-central region relations what *Jubilee Bells* did for religious-secular ties.

If, as some say, sports is a metaphor for reality, then that game and its ensuing uproar provided a troubling view of the tensions simmering just beneath society's surface.

BETAR JERUSALEM and Hapoel Tel Aviv are neck and neck in the battle for the championship of Israel's top soccer league. Hapoel Beit She'an was fighting to survive for another year in the league; struggling not to be one of the two teams at the bottom of the standings, which are relegated at seasons' end to the dreaded Second Division.

Betar had to win the game to stay atop the league. And Beit She'an – as the game entered its last 10 minutes and the results from two other games came in – realized that it could afford to lose the game and still remain in the premier league.

And that is exactly what happened – Beit She'an lost. But they lost in a way that aroused allegations that they didn't really lose, but voluntarily threw the game to help Betar win the championship.

"Shame" screamed the headline in *Yediot Aharonot*'s sports section in huge yellow letters.

"Betar on their way to the title with a lot of help from friends," read *Ha'aretz*'s headline.

Tomorrow is the season's final match. If Betar and Hapoel Tel Aviv both win, Betar is the champion. The opposite would have been true had Betar lost last weekend.

Allegations of a match fix came not only from sportswriters but from spectators, Hapoel management, Hapoel fans, and – ultimately – politicians.

One thing that raised suspicions was that the match began eight minutes later than scheduled; many thought the delay was intentional, to give the players a chance to hear the results of the other games before their own game was finished.

Some things during the game also struck many as strange. Betar was leading the game 2-1 until the 83rd minute, when Beit She'an's Almog Hazan kicked the ball in from some 25 meters out, tying the score at 2-2. One of Beit She'an's players placed his hands on his head, as if to say "Oh, no!"

Hazan was later quoted as saying he did not understand why no one jumped on him to congratulate him for what was one of the sensational goals of the season.

From that moment on Beit She'an's defense went completely lax, and Betar scored in the very last minute of the game.

An investigation – complete with polygraph tests and videotape – was launched immediately.

BUT WHY would Beit She'an lose on purpose? Because of political, ethnic, and social affiliation, say some experts.

Betar symbolizes the Likud. It symbolizes the Sephardim, the underdogs, the have-nots struggling to make ends meet. Hapoel Tel Aviv symbolizes Labor. It has come to represent Ashkenazim, the establishment, yuppie Tel Avivians with money to burn.

It doesn't matter that Hapoel is comprised of players with classic Sephardi names like Elimelech, Azoulai, Tikva and Sheetrit, said sociologist Oz Almog, who recently wrote a book entitled *The Sabras – a Profile*.

"Symbolically, Hapoel Tel Aviv is still thought of as socialist and Ashkenazi, even if its fans are from all levels of society. In the eyes of its opponents, it is still the Labor, Histadrut establishment."

It doesn't hurt that the owner of Hapoel is Moshe Teomim, a well-known advertising mogul who served as Shimon Peres's campaign adviser in the last elections.

"Sometimes you need a trigger to bring primordial feelings to the surface – even among enlightened people," said Almog, who teaches at the Jezreel Valley College.

"What defines enlightened? Not that a person is not prejudiced, but that he is able to sublimate this prejudice, suppress it. But once you have a trigger, it is released."

The feelings that the game released among Hapoel supporters, Almog said, are feelings that the Right is simply stealing the country from under their noses.

An indication of this came from the Knesset's Education Committee, which dedicated a session to the controversy.

MK's Haim Ramon (Labor) and Yossi Sarid (Meretz) said Beit She'an gave up because they were afraid of what would happen to them, and to their families, had they won.

Their clear message was that the intimidation by the Betar fans in the stadium helped Betar win. The hidden message – judging at least from reactions inside the committee – was that the same modus operandi – intimidation – is the hallmark of the Likud and Binyamin Netanyahu.

Ruby Rivlin, carrying the ball for Betar in the Knesset, said to Sarid and Meron: "Betar Jerusalem are champions, Bibi Netanyahu is prime minister. Get that through your heads."

According to Almog, "Israeli yuppies and leftists, when they look at the game, don't feel animosity and resentment only toward Beit She'an, but to all the Likud. The whole controversy has tapped into suppressed prejudices of the Left against the Right.

"[Sports commentator] Aryeh Maliniak wrote an editorial [in *Yediot Aharonot*] that reflects what many people feel. The gist of his article was, 'Those bastards, they stole the election, now they are stealing our championship.'"

IF MALINIAK'S editorial – run on the paper's op-ed page, not in the sports section – encapsulated the thinking of Hapoel Tel Aviv supporters, Eli Ohana, the legendary former Betar star, wrote in the same paper that all the brouhaha is a result of Moshe Teomim's connections with the press.

"What do the bleeding hearts want?" Ohana wrote. "Yes, we don't have the press [on our side] and we don't have a chairman of an advertising agency. But we have falafel and Betar Jerusalem."

Ohana's reaction, said Almog, is symptomatic of society's tensions.

"His reaction is that the Left, and the press, is out to get them. The irony is that Betar probably has more fans in the press than any other club.

"But this is what often happens in the Likud. The minute someone criticizes them, it is the system that becomes the opponent, the system that is out to get them."

This instinct, Almog argues, is the result of a deep-seated inferiority complex, one that does not dissipate with success.

"Betar Jerusalem is an empire," Almog said, "It is not challenging for the championship for the first time. It is the league's flagship team."

Yet their fans still view the team – and by extension themselves – as the underdog, said Almog.

"Through soccer," he said, "You can see the phenomenon of family, and extended family. Beit She'an and Betar belong to the same extended family – ethnically speaking. You can't humiliate your family.

"In this society ties are not drawn geographically. There are the social ties, the ties between towns in the periphery, ethnic allegiance. These ties make Jerusalem closer to Dimona, Beit She'an and Kiryat Shmona than to Mevasseret Zion."

Almog said all this explains why the Beit She'an players could conceivably have let Betar win.

"I don't think the game was fixed in the sense that players were bought off. It was more like being bought off emotionally. They realized they didn't have to win the game; they saw Betar fans on the verge of pouring onto the field and lynching them, and they have a basic instinct of solidarity with Betar. They would not want to kill the chances of a championship for their extended family."

THE WAY Beit She'an played, Almog explained further, says a great deal about development towns, and how they see themselves in the country's firmament.

The team, which moved up to the National League in 1994, has become the country's sentimental favorite, not because they have ever seriously challenged for the league title, but because of the very fact that they are in the big leagues, playing mythic teams like Betar Jerusalem and Maccabi Haifa, not "rinky-dink" clubs from Kiryat Shmona or Acre.

"The Beit She'an team represents the periphery," Almog said. "Note what they are happy about, what the horizon of their success is. It's just to stay in the league, not to win the championship. The team is considered a success, but only when judged by the yardstick of the periphery.

"If your main goal is to survive, you will never be a real success. Why? Because the first rule of success is expectation. They don't expect ever to win the championship, so they make do with staying in the league, and don't try extra hard."

Amir Ben-Porat, a Ben-Gurion University sociologist who has studied the place of soccer in society, said the main thing the match shows about the country is that politics remains ubiquitous.

"The game shows that we have not been able to free ourselves from politics, even though Israeli soccer is undergoing a revolution, with economics, not politics, becoming more and more important. But this match shows that the political link to sports is still very strong."

The involvement of the Knesset in the debate – indeed the passions it aroused among MKs supporting the different sides – shows that politicians realize sport can be used for their benefit.

"Soccer is important," Ben-Porat said. "It gets you into the headlines, you develop a name as defending something a lot of people find important. Remember that we are in the era of primaries, and district primaries. It won't hurt Rivlin in Jerusalem that he defended Betar, or Ramon in Tel Aviv that he backed Hapoel." Betar fans were gratified yesterday by the finding of the official investigating committee that there was no criminal wrongdoing by Hapoel Beit She'an.

To Jerusalemite Ofer Shem-Tov, standing behind a mound of paprika in his spice store in Mahaneh Yehuda, all the learned analysis of the sociologists was just so much gobbledygook.

His explanation was much simpler.

"Look," he said, "once Beit She'an saw they didn't need to win the game, they just relaxed. What do you think – if I had a million dollars, would I be slogging here as hard as I am now?"

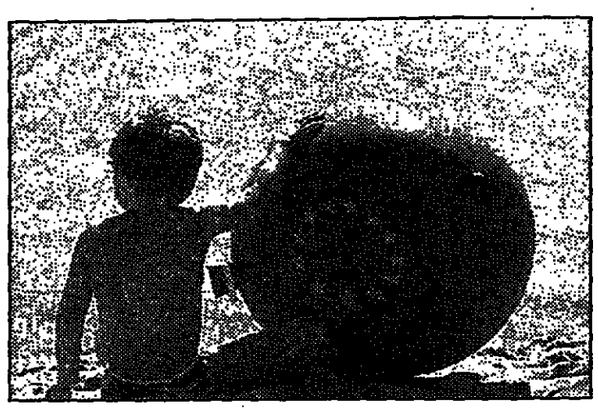
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6:15 p.m. Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein: "בענין ספירת העומר ביום"
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Time to play ball with Europe

What does the advent of the European Monetary Union mean to the Israeli in the street or office? Thomas O'Dwyer finds out



A visitor from another planet could be forgiven for thinking the United States must be our next-door neighbor and that Europe must be far, far away across the Atlantic, a place of which we know little and care less.

Last week, three historic economic events took place that will change such delusions for ever. First, the government unveiled its liberalization of foreign currency dealings – albeit in a watered-down version.

Second, the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell bank issued the first ever shekel-linked bonds on the European market, and was followed minutes later by a Merrill Lynch issue of Euro-shekel-bonds.

The third measure, of huge international importance, was the European Union's decision that the monetary union is going right ahead for 11 states, including France, Germany and Italy, as of January next.

Israel's financial liberalization was announced for the 50th anniversary, the European decision came at the weekend. Were the two events mere coincidence? Some Israel commentators said yes, how could Israelis plan so far ahead – but that is to take well-deserved credit away from the Bank of Israel.

"The central bank certainly was not surprised by the European decision," Dr. Ohad Bar-Efrat, advisor to the central bank governor Jacob Frenkel, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "It has been getting ready for the euro in several ways – including the Euroshekel. We are examining investments and foreign exchange reserves in various markets and currencies, we are revising our thinking to face the many challenges of the euro. The balance of payments has been brought under control, the foreign exchange liberalization has been announced."

Pinhas Landau, one of Israel's top economic analysts and the general manager of Eurostrategies Ltd., which provides consulting on the European monetary union says, "Bank governor Jacob Frenkel has foresight. He decided on the liberalization measures last year, just before the European summit."

So what exactly does the coming of the European monetary union mean – and what does it mean to the Israeli in the street or office?

The idea of uniting all the currencies of the European Union states into a single currency was fixed by the 1991 Treaty of Maastricht and given a date – 1999. A year later, growing opposition in some states triggered a wave of currency speculation and forced Britain and Italy out of the exchange rate mechanism – the trading bands that were supposed to converge towards a common currency rate.

Israel for years totally ignored the coming of the European monetary union – but then so did everyone else, including the US and even most European businesses. Only last year did the truth begin to dawn – this European Union, which US Sen. Jesse Helms said "couldn't organize its way out of a wet paper bag," really does have an act together – there *is* going to be a real coin called the euro.

In 2002, euro notes go into European pockets and all former traditional currencies will disappear. The four outside the euro zone, Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece, are expected to join by then.

"The European monetary union will intensify the trend towards globalization," Bar-Efrat said. "It will increase competitiveness. Israel has to become part of this process – for a small open economy, no other strategy is possible."

Central bank advisor Bar-Efrat commented that "Business acts here later than in Europe. Companies have many issues to tackle, computer programs for example."

He said the global trend is for large trade blocs – North and South America, Asia-Pacific Rim and, the most successful and far reaching of them all, the European Union. "Israel is closer to Europe and naturally belongs in the European bloc," Bar-Efrat said. All those nations are diverse in culture, languages, economies – Israel fits right in."

So what will change?

"For the man in the street, the euro won't mean much, said Landau. "The euro will make life simpler when you're on vacation, investment portfolios will change at the expense of dollar-based assets – some rejigging is needed there. Israelis invest mostly in Israel. In future, they will have to diversify."

For the next economic level – small businesses, entrepreneurs, domestic traders – analysts see little direct effect from Europe either. But at the national level – banking, importing and exporting, high finance – the changes, and the shocks for the unprepared, are going to be revolutionary. It is from the top down that the arrival of superpower Europe on our doorstep is going to filter down to every home in the country, according to Landau.

"Israel really must wake up to Europe. Take the exchange rate basket – from now on it's effectively going to be 60 percent dollar and 40 percent euro. The political ramifications of economic unity in Europe are going to be profound. Israel is going to be forced to face up to its political and military links with the US. The euro will impact every business depending on imports or exports," said Landau. "It will impact on financial markets and businesses by increasing competition to unimagined levels.

"The government is woefully remiss here," added Landau. "Take tourism – tourism will be crucified. It faces a very serious threat, but it is lost in its current woes and not getting prepared. In Europe a massive upheaval is taking place, with the merging of giant wholesalers to get ready for euro pricing. If you're not on their tourist brochures, you are going to be dead. And our Ministry of Tourism is doing nothing."

But are Europeans aware of Israel and its euro-linked liberalization?

"Definitely, yes," said Bar-Efrat, "and down to the individual level. Big banks have approached investors and businesses with suggestion for diversifying their portfolios." But he added that "Many business people have been taken unawares. Five to seven years ago virtually no one believed the economy would be affected by this EMU (European monetary union), or that it would even happen."

Liberalization exposes Israel to financial markets of Europe and the world that now are very different, and that are still changing rapidly, he explained. "New roads are opening up, including the Internet."

Now for the first time, Israelis can deal with foreign financial institutions directly, without Israeli intermediaries, and that means new and fierce competition for stuffy Israeli institutions. "Domestic banks are going to have to make changes," said Ben-Efrat.

In an article in *Globes* newspaper this week, Landau put the point more forcefully, saying that if the shekel becomes an accepted hard currency, the Eurobond market could become a key instrument in raising finance for Israeli firms. Good news for Israeli business, "bad news for Israeli banking in its present structure," wrote Landau.

"No wonder the bankers oppose convertibility and are trying to stifle the development of shekel markets in Europe, as they have so successfully done in Israel for many years. The banks, however, see all progress and all exposure as increasing the threat to their status. They thus face a clear-cut and inescapable choice: either change and adapt to what is good for the economy and good for their business and private customers, or persist in their outdated format, and atrophy, swiftly and surely."

As well as tourism and banking, Landau told the *Post*, the Justice Ministry, too has been remiss in preparing for the euro.

"There are many legal aspects to be sorted out. If your contract is delineated in Deutschemarks or francs, does it remain legal or become void when these currencies vanish? Lawyers will love it." All that is needed, said Landau, is primary legislation. "You need a law that states old currency equals new euro (at the official exchange rate). That's it, but the government is unprepared again.

"Computers are a very big deal. Israeli businessmen say it's simple – we add one more decimal currency for conversions, no big deal.

See EURO, Page 22

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Businesswoman **Dvora Ganani**, detained by police in Cairo last July and since denied an entry visa to Egypt, will return to the land of the Nile, astrologer **Miriam Tamir** predicted this week at a reception in the courtyard of Jerusalem's Khan Theater. It was held to launch *Shisha with Apple Leaves – A Woman in Cairo*, the story of Ganani's many years in the Egyptian capital, as told to journalist **Zippora Roman**. Tamir, whose previous predictions for Ganani have all proven true, told the businesswoman: "You'll go to Egypt again – but you'll come home."

EVER since Poland resumed diplomatic relations with Israel *Tel Aviv's Ramada Hotel has been* one of the main centers of Polish social activity in this country. **Stefan Kwiatkowski** pinpointed the Ramada for his country's National Day reception while still head of the Polish Interests Section, prior to his appointment as Poland's first ambassador here in nearly a quarter of a century. All successive ambassadors, including the present one, **Wojciech Adamiecki**, followed suit – until this year, when the event was moved to the larger premises of Gan Oranim.

Perhaps it had something to do with an extended guest list, now that Poland has been admitted to NATO. But many of the diplomats who generally attend the reception presented themselves not in Tel Aviv, but in Warsaw Ghetto Square at Yad Vashem for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's special *Resurrection of the Dead* concert conducted by Zubin Mehta, which was on the same night. Also attending the concert were several Righteous Gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

IT was very much a family affair in the Knesset auditorium when Hadassah presented its Women of Distinction award to broadcaster, producer and actress **Rivka Michaeli**, medical researcher Professor **Hadassa Degani**, executive member of the World Health Organization and non-government official at the United Nations **Pnina Herzog**, and **Ruth Dayan**, founder of Eshet Hayil and Maskit.

Relatives of two of the honorees presented floral tributes. **Aura Herzog**, president of the Council for a Beautiful Israel and sister-in-law of Pnina Herzog, made the presentation to her; **Reuma Weizman**, wife of the president, made the presentation to her sister, Ruth Dayan, while MK **Yael Dayan** went up on stage to tell her mother how much she loved her.

Michaeli, whose professional life has revolved around timing, was, though moved by the ceremony, sufficiently on the ball to take her cue from Knesset speaker **Dan Tichon**. When he made a reference to the Batsheva dance fiasco at the *Jubilee Bells* spectacular, she responded by expressing the fear that part of the national anthem – hope – was being erased.

VETERAN journalist and photographer **Moshe (Marlin) Levin** and his wife, **Betty**, have just returned from Bonn in Germany, where Levin's *Birth of Israel* exhibit opened last week before a crowd of 700 in a beautiful new building next door to the office of Chancellor **Helmut Kohl**. The exhibit, which premiered in Jerusalem in September, has since traveled to many parts of the world. In Germany, it was sponsored by the Deutsch-Israelische Gesellshaft (D.I.G) and included an 84-page color catalogue financed by the German state of Nordrhein-Westfalen, whose prime minister, **Johannes Rau**, was the keynote speaker at the opening. Among the other speakers were D.I.G. vice-president **Magdalene Krumpholz**, who speaks Hebrew, and Israel ambassador **Avi Primor**.

Five minutes after the Levins returned home to Jerusalem they received a telephone call with a request that the exhibit be sent to Bratislava in Slovakia at the end of May. Levin is now trying to find a spare copy of the exhibit – the 13 copies currently circulating the globe are all booked until September. The most recent opening was this week at the Eretz Israel Museum in Tel Aviv.

ANOTHER unexpected guest – **Yehuda Rabin** – at the President's Residence on Independence Day, at the reception for army officers who were the midwives of the nascent state. During the recent presidential elections, Rabin was vehemently critical of President **Ezer Weizman**, and, together with her family and several friends, actively supported the candidature of **Shaul Amor**. Rabin said she had come as the representative of her husband, the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

PRESIDENT Weizman tends to pitch the idea of looking forward to the day when a Syrian ambassador joins those of Egypt and Jordan here – but this year it was the Egyptian ambassador, **Mohammed Bassiouny**, who did so. Speaking at The International Ambassadors' Salute to Israel at the Eretz Israel Museum, Bassiouny said that next year he hoped to see the ambassadors of Syria and Lebanon "under the umbrella of peace."



Rivka Michaeli, a woman of distinction (Avi Hayun)

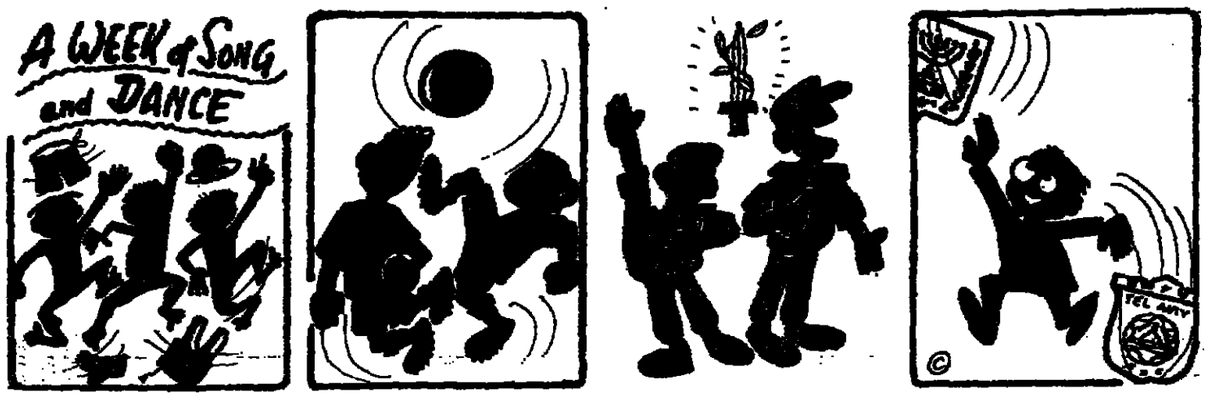
ANYONE noticed that Shas leader **Arye Deri** no longer smokes a pipe? Well, it's not because he's willingly given up smoking, but because he lost a bet.

Deri and political kingmaker **Dudu Appel** had a contest to see who could lose the most weight. If Appel lost the contest, it was decided that he would attend prayer services three times a day. If Deri lost, he would forfeit his pipe. It seems that somebody up there is more interested in Deri's physical health than in Appel's spiritual welfare.

Deri shed only 10 kilograms, and so has stopped smoking, at least temporarily. But Appel, now 20 kg. lighter, is reportedly so happy with his new svelte physique that he's taken to more frequent synagogue attendance even though he won the wager.

But the real winner is each man's tailor. Both Deri and Appel are in sore need of new suits.

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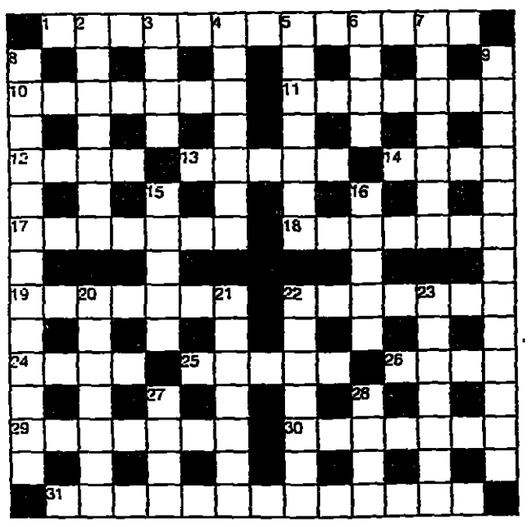
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Inflexibility superior feature of a true Englishman? (5,5,3)
10 Sort out the middle of a tune with the composer (7)
11 Uniform–and it's wearer? (7)
12 Escape from contaminated lake (4)
13 Believes they're used for cargo (5)
14 Female lost her head in Arabia (4)
17 Sympathise with a number drawing unemployment benefit (7)
18 Vexed expression, the pet has died (7)
19 A newspaper giving it a bold presentation (7)
22 Like news maybe, from the Capitol? (7)
24 Detain in a safe place (4)
25 Thrash about the ring showing little craft (5)
26 Organisation usually accepting responsibility (4)
29 We're yet in the process of growing (3-4)
30 Road not affected by the storm (7)
31 View of one who should know better (6,7)

DOWN

2 About to be put up in school ground (7)
3 Number four iron taken out (4)
4 Liberate one soul in torment (7)
5 Notice cut out and displayed (7)
6 The right time for fashion (4)
7 Up in the air amid the dance (2,5)
8 Spare lockers? (9,4)
9 Pretty conventional symbol of Unions (6-7)
15 Drive from tee in open country (5)
16 Open a fresh page (5)
20 Workers spread wood polish (4-3)
21 The talk of the district (7)
22 We stop dancing after a sort of square dance (3-4)
23 Once VAT has been sorted out, obtain Portugese coin (7)
27 Not working for nothing (4)
28 It flies about in different directions (4)



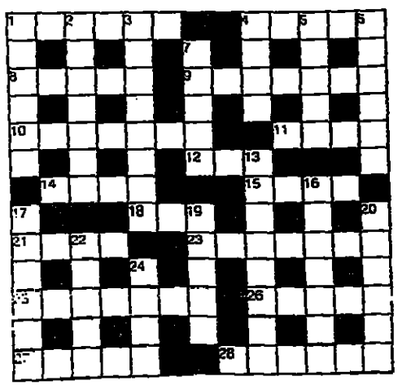
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S	A	R	G	A	S	S	O	■	A	■	N	■	S	■
M	■	K	■	E	■	K	I	L	O	G	R	A	M	■

Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Miss, 4 Tickle, 7 Tsar, 9 Tsar, 10 Espousal, 11 Urn, 12 Grid, 13 Tendency, 16 Belligerently, 19 Strength, 23 Crab, 24 Oak, 25 Moreover, 26 Laid, 27 Doe, 28 Stance, 29 Tint.

DOWN: 2 Insurrection, 3 Strudel, 4 Trent, 5 Capon, 6 Louse, 8 Cancellation, 14 Event, 15 Due, 17 Inn, 18 Necklet, 20 Event, 21 Given, 22 Horde.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Account book (6)
4 Reprimand (5)
8 Bolt (5)
9 Hide (7)
10 Dispose (7)
11 Platform (4)
12 Armed conflict (3)
14 Yield (4)
15 Fellow fighter (4)
18 Delve (3)
21 Haystack (4)
23 Mean (7)
25 Course fabric (7)
26 Depart (5)
27 Attire (5)
28 Coming (6)

DOWN

1 Lasso (6)
2 Varying (7)
3 Stretched (8)
4 Transmit (4)
5 Stadium (5)
6 Enroll (6)
7 Twist (5)
13 Tangled (8)
16 Water loss (7)
17 Jungle flower (6)
19 Haggard (5)
20 Choose (6)
22 Social class (5)
24 Fail to hit (4)

High Court rules:

Cut Herzliya mayor's legal aid

By DAN IZENBERG

The High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the Herzliya City Council to "substantially reduce" the amount of money it had approved to pay the lawyers hired by Mayor Eli Landau to represent him in a fraud trial several years ago.

Landau, who was acquitted of the charges after the court gave him the benefit of the doubt, asked the council to pay the two law firms he had hired a total of NIS 1,487,770 to cover their fees.

The sum is the highest ever paid a public official to cover his legal defense. It is five times higher than the sum paid former Haifa mayor Aryeh Gurel and 20 times higher than the sum prescribed in Interior Ministry regulations.

The council approved the payment of the entire legal fee a total of six times, including once after the Interior Ministry informed the council that they had awarded the payment without receiving enough information, and a second time after the attorney-general told the council members that the sum of money awarded should be substantially lower than the sum Landau had asked for.

The attorney-general gave three reasons for his opinion:

- The court exonerated Landau not because it was certain he was innocent but because it had doubts about his guilt
- The sum of money Landau asked for was out of all proportion to past precedents
- Since Landau had paid only NIS 280,000 (less than 20 percent of the total fee) before the verdict was issued, it is possible that his lawyers set a high fee once they were sure it would be paid covered by public funds.

Despite the attorney-general's opinion, the local council voted for the sixth time to pay the entire fee. The attorney-general then asked Interior Minister Eli Suissa to intervene, and he knocked the sum down by NIS 150,000.

Earlier in the proceedings, Yael German, a member of the city council, petitioned the High Court against the council's decisions. In response to her petition, and after giving the authorities time to work things out on their own, the court ruled yesterday that the council had not taken into account all the factors related to the case, including the three points emphasized by the attorney-general.

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Tel Aviv: Bass, 66 Frishman, 523-7326; Arlozorov, 76 Arlozorov, 523-0746.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Doron, 5 Geula, Ra'anana, 771-6084.
Netanya: Hanasi, 36 Weizman Blvd., 882-3639.
Haifa: Hanita, 22 Hanita, 823-1905.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
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Saturday, May 9

Jerusalem: (day) Amona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 673-1901; (evening) Center Pharm, 20 Yad Harutzim, 673-1475. (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Achva, 165 Dizengoff, 522-4717. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0106.
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Friday, May 8

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Inside

Rugby sevens for Jerusalem
Page 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Chang, Rusedski, Krajicek join falling seeds in German Open

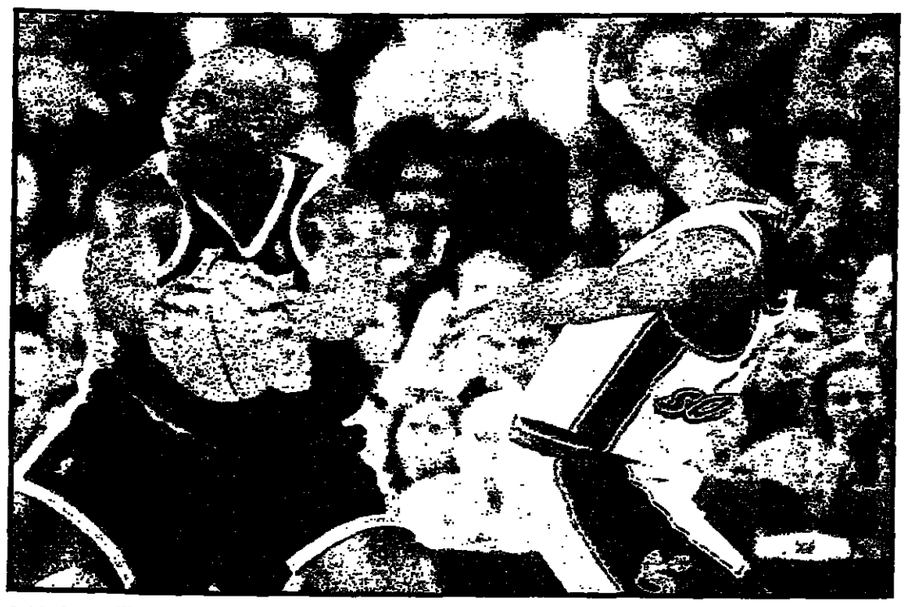
HAMBURG (Reuters) – Former French Open champion Michael Chang became the seventh seed to tumble out of the weather-hit German Open yesterday.

Chang, now at world No. 15, was beaten by tenacious Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-3 6-7 6-2 in the second round.

Two more seeds, Richard Krajicek and Greg Rusedski, fell by the wayside later in the day, though the defeat of the two big servers on slow clay could hardly be considered a big surprise.

Thomas Muster was hustled his way to the fourth round on the covered center court.

The Austrian, who will equal the record of nine Super Nine tournament titles held by Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi if he wins the title here, he beat the German qualifier Jens Knippschild 6-1 6-4.



LA's Shaquille O'Neal (left) looks for passing room around Seattle's Jerome Kersey. (Reuters)

Hornets sting Bulls, Lakers breeze past Sonics

CHICAGO (AP) – Dell Curry and B.J. Armstrong took over for Charlotte's slumping starters, combining for 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Hornets beat Chicago 78-76 Wednesday night.

The victory evened the Eastern Conference semifinals at one game apiece, with Game 3 today in Charlotte. It is the second straight year that Chicago lost Game 2 of the conference semifinals.

Anthony Mason had 15 points and Glen Rice 14, but it was Curry and Armstrong who carried the Hornets. Curry had 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, and Armstrong scored eight of his 10 in the final period as Charlotte overcame an eight-point deficit.

Armstrong's jumper with 18 seconds left sealed the game, and the former Bull, who played on three of Chicago's championship teams, turned to his old teammates, pumped his fist and woofed.

Michael Jordan had 22 points, including eight in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough to help the cold-shooting Bulls.

Chicago was just 8-of-24 (33 percent) in the fourth quarter, and 31-of-85 (36.5 percent) overall. Scottie Pippen, who finished with 13, missed all six of his field goal attempts and was scoreless in the final period.

Coming off a cold performance Sunday, Charlotte looked as if it was headed for another bad night. Trailing by eight midway through the fourth quarter, the Hornets' shooting percentage was hovering around 35 percent. Mason and Rice were struggling, a combined 9-of-24 through three quarters.

So coach Dave Cowens turned to his bench. Curry hit a 3-pointer with 6:46 left to spark a 9-0 run and his follow-up jumper gave Charlotte a 64-63 lead, its first since the first quarter. Armstrong extended the edge with consecutive jumpers, and Charlotte held off the Bulls the rest of the way.

Vlade Divac had 19 rebounds for Charlotte.

Lakers 92, SuperSonics 68

In Seattle, SuperSonics coach George Karl got Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers really steamed.

Stung by Karl's criticism of O'Neal's high elbows and hip-hop moves in the paint, the Lakers evened their Western Conference semifinal series with Seattle at one game each with a 92-68 victory.

O'Neal scored 26 points, including 20 in the first half, and also had 10 rebounds and four blocked shots before leaving with 4:20 to play and the Lakers ahead by 21.

The Lakers played without 19-year-old All-Star Kobe Bryant, who missed the game because of flu.

Eddie Jones added a career playoff-high 23 points and Nick Van Exel had 16 for the Lakers.

Vin Baker had 13 points and Gary Payton and Sam Perkins 12 apiece for Seattle, which was held to a franchise-low postseason scoring output. The previous low was 70 in a 21-point loss to Houston in 1982. The Sonics did come back to win that series.

The 68 points were the fewest given up by the Lakers in a playoff game.

The Sonics made 13 baskets during the last three quarters and shot 33 percent (25-for-76) for the game.

Games 3 and 4 will be held in Los Angeles Friday and Sunday, with Game 5 in Seattle next Tuesday.

Beit She'an, Betar cleared of match-fixing

By ORI LEWIS

The findings of an interim report into alleged match-fixing in Saturday's match between Hapoel Beit She'an and Betar Jerusalem have failed to reveal any criminal activity by players and club officials, the Israel Football Association (IFA) said yesterday.

Allegations into possible match-fixing surfaced in the media following last Saturday's National League match which Betar won 3-2 in injury time.

"The results of the report have brought me to the conclusion that there is no room to turn the matter over to the police for a criminal investigation," said Moshe Avivi, the IFA's legal adviser.

In quoting from the report, Avivi said: "There is no proof of organized unsporting conduct by Hapoel Beit She'an which could lead to disciplinary proceedings against the club.

"There is also no cause to take action against Betar Jerusalem..."

At the same time as the findings were revealed, Moshe Dadash, the chairman of Betar, who resigned on Tuesday citing death threats on him and his family by fans from rival club Hapoel Tel Aviv, rescinded his resignation.

"Following the plea of (Jerusalem Mayor Ehud) Olmert and the great support I have received from Betar's fans, I have decided to return as chairman...," Dadash said in Jerusalem yesterday.

With the score at 2-2 and 20 minutes of Saturday's match remaining, Beit She'an, who at the kickoff were fighting to avoid relegation, knew they were safe from the drop because Hapoel Beersheba and Bnei Yehuda had both lost.

This caused a sudden, dramatic drop in the Beit She'an players' commitment in the match, as Betar laid siege on their goal, culminating in a winner in injury-time which has seen the Jerusalem club maintain the initiative going into the last round of league matches on Saturday.

Betar lead Hapoel Tel Aviv by a point in the standings and a win in their home fixture against Maccabi Petah Tikva tomorrow will earn them a second consecutive league title.

Hapoel Tel Aviv chairman Moshe Teomim voiced his disappointment at the outcome of the report saying: "Even if the thief gets away, it doesn't mean a robbery was not committed, everybody saw what happened in the match (which was shown live on TV)."

In all, six Beit She'an players and three officials were called for questioning by the private firm which carried out the investigation on behalf of the IFA. Some of them underwent lie-detector tests.

Beit She'an club chairman Avraham Yitzhak said yesterday that it was all a storm in a teacup. "A week of frustration in Beit She'an has come to nought. Moshe Teomim is still looking for the thief but there was no basis to any allegations against us," he said.

Yitzhak also said that Teomim, a senior figure in the local advertising business had the media on his side in the "smear campaign" against his

Soccer season honors ripe for picking

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

The day of reckoning arrives for Betar Jerusalem, Hapoel Tel Aviv, Hapoel Beersheba and Bnei Yehuda tomorrow, the last day of the National League season.

Betar entertain Maccabi Petah Tikva as Hapoel Tel Aviv travel to already-relegated Hapoel Ashkelon in their bid to land the title (kickoff at 1750). While at the bottom Bnei Yehuda and Beersheba will try and win in their attempt to stave off relegation (kickoff at 1700).

Following the well-publicized affair over the match between Betar and Beit She'an (see story above), defending champions Betar will try and prove tomorrow, in front of a packed-to-the rafters Teddy Stadium, that the incidents of the last seven days couldn't overshadow a long and successful campaign.

Hapoel Ashkelon, will host championship hopefuls Hapoel Tel Aviv, in what will be the home side's last bow from what was a brief flirtation with the high life.

Tel Aviv are expected to cruise to an easy win after bottom of the table Ashkelon had released all of their foreign players ahead of the game.

Coach Ronny Dura, who has conceded defeat in his team's season-long battle to beat the drop since taking up the caretaker job, was quoted as saying that he has let a few youngsters in, hoping, this move might pay off in the future.

Hapoel Tel Aviv's top scorer Ofer Shitrit and Betar Jerusalem's skipper Shmulik Levy will miss the last day of the season following red cards both players collected last Saturday.

Hapoel Beersheba will try and avoid relegation when they host cup finalists Maccabi Haifa who will be resting a few players before their cup final in midweek. A player who will not miss the trip south is Israel international striker Alon Mizrahi who will try and finish as the season's top scorer yet again.

Bnei Yehuda who suffered a 4-1 drubbing by the hands of third-place Hapoel Haifa last week, are one point above Beersheba in the standings and hope to secure their place in the top flight for as they travel to ninth-placed Ironi Rishon. In the four other "irrelevant" matches to be played today it's Hap. Haifa v Hap. Beit She'an, Hap. Petah Tikva v Hap. Jerusalem, Hap. Kfar Sava v Mac. Herzliya and Mac. Tel Aviv v Ironi Ashdod.

National League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bet. Jerusalem	29	18	10	1	67	31	64
Hap. Tel Aviv	29	19	6	4	57	13	63
Hap. Haifa	29	16	10	3	55	24	58
Mac. Haifa	29	14	8	7	48	33	50
Hap. Petah Tikva	29	11	6	12	37	39	39
Hap. Kfar Sava	29	10	8	11	38	37	38
Ironi Rishon	29	10	6	13	41	50	36
Mac. Tel Aviv	29	8	10	11	31	33	34
Mac. Petah Tikva	29	7	13	9	24	28	34
Hap. Jerusalem	29	8	10	11	33	42	34
Ironi Ashdod	29	8	10	11	36	47	34
Mac. Herzliya	29	8	9	12	35	39	33
Hap. Beit She'an	29	8	8	13	32	42	32
Bnei Yehuda	29	7	8	14	23	38	29
Hap. Beersheba	29	6	10	13	36	54	28
Hap. Ashkelon	29	5	6	18	24	47	21

Hap. J'lem shocks Maccabi 72-70 to force fourth playoff game

By ELI GRONER

Thirty-nine minutes and 57 seconds after stepping on the court in Yad Eliyahu as a surprise starter, H Waldman provided a fantastic finish. Waldman gave Oded Katash a dose of his own medicine – utilizing a terrific crossover dribble – before driving to the hoop to score the winning basket with just three seconds remaining.

Hapoel Jerusalem's 72-70 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv forces the semifinal series to go to an unexpected Game 4, which will be held in Malha on Sunday night. The loss snapped a 29-game playoff winning streak for Maccabi, dating back to 1994.

Waldman wasn't even supposed to be on the court for the last possession, but Adi Gordon failed to get to the scorers' table in time to replace him.

It was a much different Jerusalem squad than the one that lost by 39 points at home in Game 2. Effi Birnbaum's club was especially motivated, scoring high marks in the "hustle" categories – offensive rebounds and steals. That tenacity, along with an exceptionally strong defensive performance, allowed Hapoel to dictate the pace for most of the game. The result was a slow, stiff contest that didn't allow anybody to get untracked.

But the methodical bruiser turned into an elegant duel over the final four minutes. Doron Sheffer elevated his game down the stretch, scoring eight points in the final four minutes. Each time though, Hapoel responded, and a Radisav Curcic field goal with 51 seconds to play gave Jerusalem its first lead, 70-68, since midway through the first half.

Sheffer buried a medium range jump shot on the other end, setting the stage for Waldman's game-winner.

The contrast between Hapoel's victory last night and its embarrasing debacle on Sunday was not lost on Birnbaum. "We have a veteran team that learned from its mistakes in Game 2," he noted.

Curcic led Hapoel with 18 points. Katash paced all scorers with 20.



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Capital to host rugby sevens event

By JOEL GORDIN

Teams from eight countries, including some of the world's super stars, are to take part in an international rugby sevens tournament in Jerusalem later this month.

On May 20 and 21, seven-a-side rugby, also known as "sevens," which is a spin-off from the 15-a-side game will be held at Teddy Stadium.

Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Wales, Samoa, Spain and Hungary have confirmed that they will take part in the tournament according to Adi Raz, a member of tournament's organizing committee. Israeli players will make up the eighth team.

The Australian team will be bringing their national icon David Campese, considered by many to be a rugby legend.

The New Zealanders will include All Black Eric Rush.

Fiji are the world seven-a-side champions, they won the title in Hong Kong last year by beating South Africa in the final.

Samoa made it to the semi-finals. The captain of the world-beating Fiji team, Jope Tuikabe, will be leading the team to Jerusalem.

He is no stranger to the city having turned out as a "foreign player" for the local club ASA Jerusalem a few years ago when he served in Fijian contingent to the United Nations and was stationed in this area.

Another Fijian star who will be coming here is Marika Vunibaka who besides being a veteran of the world cup team has played professionally for Leicester.

It is played on a full-size field by two teams each made up of four backs and three forwards. The duration of each match is 15 minutes.

The tournament format will see the eight teams divided into two pools of four.

On the first day's competition, teams will play a pool round-robin format.

On the following day, the top two teams in each pool will play a knockout contest for the Jerusalem Cup while the bottom two teams will play for the consolation prize.

The event is the climax of endeavors over the past two years by group of rugby enthusiasts. Raz, 26, told *The Jerusalem Post*: "My father is a diplomat and I was brought up in Australia where I was exposed to rugby. Later, I traveled with my father to Fiji where rugby in general, and sevens in particular, is a religion.

"When I returned to Israel in 1991 I played rugby for ASA Jerusalem, but I never lost my enthusiasm for the seven-a-side game. About two years ago a few of us formed an organization to get a tourney started here and to make Jerusalem part of the international sevens circuit.

The chairman of the organizing committee is journalist Avi Hoffman, also a former Jerusalem and Israel player.

"We started to move into high gear about a year ago thanks to the help we received from George Simpkin, a former coach of the Fiji team who recognized the potential of Jerusalem's," magical name. He pointed us in all the right direction," said Raz.

Are they not put off by the fact that rugby has a sparse following in Israel? "That's no handicap. I attended last year's world championships in Hong Kong and I saw what the game can do for the tourism of a small country.

About 40,000 attended the Hong Kong tournament, even though rugby is not a big sport in the country. Another 10,000 attend sevens tournaments in places like Dubai, where rugby is even less popular among the locals.

"The investment in the tournament, including the travel expenses and accommodation of all the players, will be about NIS1 million. The money will be supplied partly by a number of sponsors, both local and international.

However, the major backer is SMR Rugby Management a company set up in Cyprus to promote seven-a-side rugby tournaments. The aim is to put Jerusalem on the "sevens" circuit along with Hong Kong, Dubai, Tokyo, Shanghai, Paris and cities in Fiji, Australia, South Africa and the US.

Cable TV's Channel 5 is set to cover the event.

"This tournament is being regarded as an investment. We'll be laying the groundwork for bigger and better tournaments to come which will pay for themselves through sponsorship, press coverage, ticket sales and souvenir sales," explains Raz.

Wood ties record with 20 strikeouts as Cubs down Astros

CHICAGO (AP) – Rookie Kerry Wood tied the major league record with 20 strikeouts in a nine-inning game, pitching a one-hitter Wednesday to lead the Chicago Cubs over the Houston Astros 2-0.

Wood, a right-hander who will turn 21 on June 16, tied the record set by Roger Clemens against Seattle on April 29, 1986, and matched by Clemens against Detroit in on Sept. 18, 1996.

Wood struck out the side in the first, fifth, seventh and eighth innings, struck out two each in the second and fourth, and one each in the third and the sixth.

The only hit he allowed was a single by Ricky Gutierrez leading off the third. The two-hopped between shortstop and third base bounced off the glove of third baseman Kevin Orie.

He struck out pinch-hitter Billy Spiers on a 1-2 pitch leading off the ninth, his seventh straight strikeout. Craig Biggio then grounded to shortstop on a 1-0 pitch. Wood then tied the record by fanning Derek Bell on a 1-2 pitch.

Wood (3-2) was mobbed by his teammates after Bell missed the game's final pitch. The rookie, who walked none, fanned the Astros 3-4-5 hitters – Jeff Bagwell, Jack Howell and Moises Alou – in all three of their at-bats.

Wood set the National League record for a nine-inning game, set by Steve Carlton in 1969, and matched by Tom Seaver in 1970 and David Cone in 1991. The major league record for an extra-inning game is 21 by Tom Cheney for Washington in a 16-inning game on Sept. 12, 1962.

Brewers 3, Padres 2

In Milwaukee, Mark Loretta hit an RBI double in the ninth as the Brewers beat the San Diego Padres after allowing a game-tying homer to Tony Gwynn in the top half of the inning.

Gwynn connected off Doug Jones (2-1) for his fourth homer, and San Diego loaded the bases when Greg Vaughn was hit by a pitch, Wally Joyner singled and Carlos Hernandez was hit by a pitch.

Jones turned Archi Cianfrocco's comebacker into a forceout at the plate, and Chris Gomez hit an inning-ending fielder's choice to shortstop.

Braves 7, Dodgers 0

In Atlanta, Greg Maddux allowed five hits in seven innings, and Chipper Jones and Michael Tucker homered as the Atlanta Braves beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-0 Wednesday for a three-game sweep.

Atlanta has won eight of nine and 17 of 21. The Braves have also won six straight over the Dodgers.

Maddux (4-2) won for the fourth time in five decisions, striking out five and walking none. After giving up two singles in the first inning, Maddux retired 14 straight until Todd Hollandsworth singled in the sixth.

Atlanta extended its home run streak to 18 games, two short of the team record set in 1973 and six shy of the NL record. The Braves lead the NL with 53 homers.

Jones connected in the fourth off Darren Dreifort (0-3) for his 11th homer, Ryan Klesko singled and Tucker followed with his eighth of the season, his sixth in six games.

Reds 4, Expos 2

In Montreal, Dmitri Young homered and drove in two runs, and Mike Remlinger pitched seven solid innings as Cincinnati won its third straight series.

Young homered off Montreal starter Javier Vazquez (1-3) to lead off the sixth, giving Cincinnati a 3-2 lead. He also had an RBI single in the third.

Remlinger (3-3) gave up two runs on six hits, walked four and struck out six. Jeff Shaw pitched the ninth for his NL-leading 11th save.

Willie Greene drove in two runs for Cincinnati with an RBI single and sacrifice fly.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tigers 10, Athletics 5

In Oakland, Bobby Higginson's two-run homer capped a three-run eighth inning as the Detroit Tigers rallied for a 10-5 win over the Oakland Athletics on a rainy Wednesday afternoon.

The start of the game, played before 5,335 soggy fans, was delayed 35 minutes and a steady rain fell throughout the contest. Tuesday night's game between the teams was postponed because of a wet field.

An RBI double by Joe Randa off reliever Mike Fetters pulled the Tigers within a run with two outs in the eighth. Higginson then hit the second pitch from Buddy Groom (1-1) over the left-center field wall. It was his fifth homer of the season.

The Tigers added four runs in the ninth on RBI singles by Frank Catalanotto and Brian Hunter and a two-run double by Randa. Doug Brocail (1-0) pitched the final 2 2-3 innings for the win.

Indians 14, Orioles 5 In Cleveland, Jim Thome homered and drove in five runs as the Cleveland Indians scored seven runs against Scott Erickson in a rout of the sputtering Baltimore Orioles.

The Orioles, who have the highest payroll in baseball history at $69 million, lost for the 14th time in 20 games and fell to .500 at 16-16. They dropped to 7-19 at Jacobs Field, including two losses in the AL championship series last fall.

Erickson (3-3) tied his career high with three homers allowed, giving up seven runs and eight hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Kenny Lofton and Brian Giles also homered off Erickson, with all the shots estimated at more than 400 feet. The right-hander is 0-5 with an 8.92 ERA in seven career starts at Jacobs Field.

Devil Rays 5, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Rolando Arrojo pitched a three-hitter for his second consecutive shutout and Tampa Bay stopped a four-game losing streak with a victory over Kansas City.

The 29-year-old rookie (4-2), who shut out Minnesota on three hits in his previous start, allowed an opposite-field double to Jose Offerman in the fourth and leadoff singles to Hal Morris in the seventh and Larry Sutton in the eighth.

Arrojo, who defected from Cuba in 1996, walked two and tied his career-best with six strikeouts. Over his last 18 innings, he has allowed only two runners past first base and retired 23 right-handers in a row.

Kevin Stocker and Miguel Cairo each had two RBIs in a five-run fifth for the Devil Rays, who won for just the third time in 15 games. The loser was Glendon Rusch (3-4), who gave up 10 hits and five runs in five innings.

Twins 8, Red Sox 7 In Boston, Ron Coomer went 3-for-5 with a homer and LaTroy Hawkins earned his first win of the year as the Minnesota Twins held on to beat the Boston Red Sox.

Rick Aguilera relieved to start the ninth with an 8-4 lead.

Reggie Jefferson and Troy O'Leary hit consecutive doubles. Two outs later, Aguilera hit pinch-hitter Jim Leyritz with a pitch, then gave up a two-run double to pinch-hitter Midre Cummings.

With the tying run on second, Nomar Garciaparra hit a game-ending grounder to second.

Boston had won 18 of its previous 22 games, while the Twins had lost six of eight. But Minnesota jumped to an early lead against Robinson Checo (0-2) and then added to it against the Boston bullpen.

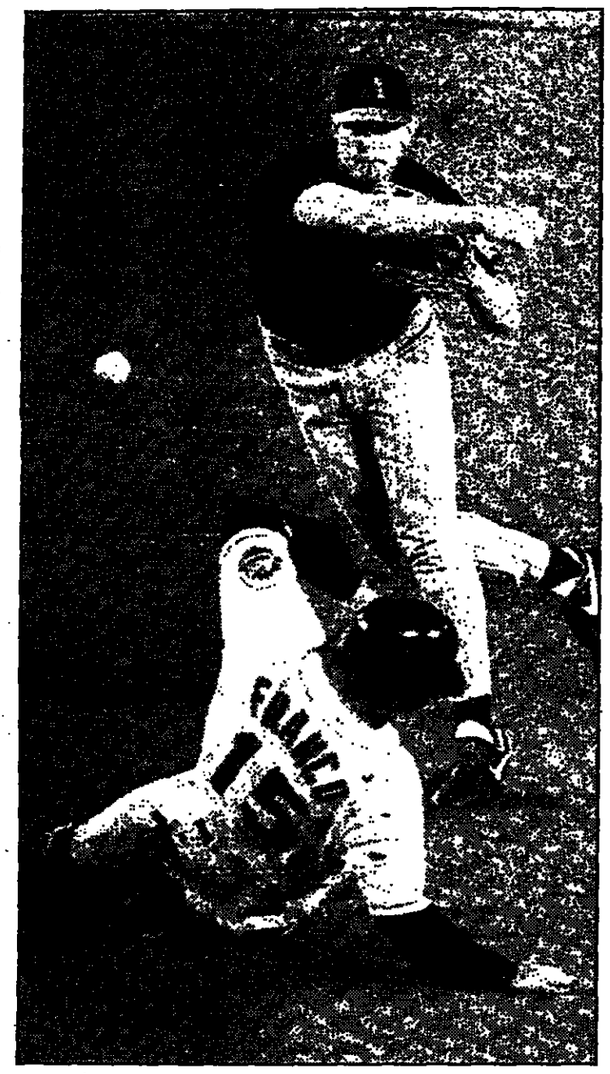
Yankees 15, Rangers 13

In Arlington, Texas, at first it seemed like the Yankees would cruise to their 21st win in 23 games. Then, Texas turned it into New York's wildest win of the season.

Jorge Posada hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and Derek Jeter drove in a career-high five RBIs as the Yankees beat the Rangers after blowing a 9-0 third-inning lead.

New York outhit Texas 18-14 in extending its latest winning streak to seven. Bernie Williams keyed the eighth with his second triple of the night, and Posada followed with the go-ahead hit off Danny Patterson (0-1). Jeter added a ninth-inning homer.

Texas, which lost its third straight following a five-game winning streak, got a three-run homer and five RBIs from Juan Gonzalez, who raised his major league-leading total to 41. Mike Simms hit a two-run homer and Ivan Rodriguez had four RBIs for the Rangers.



Arizona shortstop Jay Bell throws the ball into the Mets' dugout after forcing runner Matt Franco at second base and trying for an inning-ending double play in the eighth. (Reuters)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	23	10	.697	–
New York	16	14	.533	5½
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	8
Montreal	11	20	.355	11
Florida	11	22	.333	12
Central Division				
Houston	20	12	.625	–
Milwaukee	18	13	.581	1½
Chicago	17	15	.531	3
St. Louis	17	15	.531	3
Cincinnati	16	16	.500	4
Pittsburgh	14	18	.438	6
West Division				
San Diego	22	10	.688	–
San Francisco	18	15	.545	4½
Los Angeles	16	16	.500	6
Colorado	15	18	.455	7½
Arizona	8	25	.242	14½

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	22	6	.786	–
Boston	21	10	.677	2½
Baltimore	16	16	.500	8
Toronto	14	18	.438	10
Tampa Bay	13	18	.419	10½
Central Division				
Cleveland	19	12	.613	–
Kansas City	13	19	.406	6½
Minnesota	13	19	.406	6½
Chicago	12	19	.387	7
Detroit	8	20	.286	9½
West Division				
Texas	19	12	.613	–
Anaheim	17	15	.531	2½
Seattle	16	16	.500	3½
Oakland	14	17	.452	5

WINNING CARDS

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing



AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit	030 000 034	10	9	0
Oakland	200 100 200	5	10	1

Keagle, Florie (4), Runyan (7), Brocail (7) and Bako; Haynes, Mohler (7), Fossas (8), Groom (8), Small (9) and Hinch.
W–Brocail, 1-0. L–Groom, 1-1. HRs–Detroit, Higginson (5).
Oakland, Stairs (6).

Tampa Bay	000 000 000	5	12	0
Kansas City	000 000 000	0	3	0

Arrojo and Flaherty; Rusch, Pittsley (5), Bevil (8), Whisenant (9) and Turner. W–Arrojo, 4-2. L–Rusch, 3-4.

Baltimore	000 110 111	5	7	1
Cleveland	121 430 30x	14	17	1

Erickson, N.Rodriguez (4), Charlton (5), Ponson (8) and C.Greene; Burba, Plunk (5), Rakers (9) and S.Alomar. Borders (8). W–Burba, 2-3. L–Erickson, 3-3. HRs–Baltimore, E.Davis 2 (5), Hammonds (4). Cleveland, Lofton (2), Thome (5), Giles (8).

Minnesota	202 002 110	8	13	1
Boston	000 120 013	7	9	1

Hawkins, Swindell (8), Trombley (8), Guardado (8), Aguilera (9) and Steinbach; Checo, Wasdin (3), Shouse (7) and Hatteberg.
W–Hawkins, 1-3. L–Checo, 0-2. HR–Minnesota, Coomer (6).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

New York	270 400 011	15	18	0
Texas	007 303 000	13	15	0

D.Wells, W.Banks (3), Bottalico (4), R.Hernandez (6), Holmes (6), Stanton (7), M.Rivera (8) and Posada; Witt, Crabtree (2), K.Hernandez (4), Gunderson (4), D.Patterson (8), Wetteland (9) and I.Rodriguez. W–Stanton, 2-0. L–D.Patterson, 0-1. Sv–M.Rivera (5). HRs–New York, Knoblauch (2), Jeter (5), O'Neill (3), Raines (2). Texas, Ju.Gonzalez (8), Simms (2).

Chicago	110 020 500	9	13	1
Seattle	202 101 31x	10	13	1

Baldwin, Simas (6), Foulke (7), G.Castillo (7), Karchner (8) and Kreuter; Clouda, Spoljaric (6), Timlin (7), Possas (7), Slocumb (7), Ayala (9) and D.Wilson. W–Slocumb, 1-2.
L–C.Castillo, 0-2. Sv–Ayala (5). HRs–Chicago, Sierra 2 (3).
Seattle, E.Martinez (5), D.Wilson (3), R.Davis (8).

Toronto	100 101 210	6	10	0
Anaheim	060 000 00x	6	12	0

Hanson, Escobar (7), Plesac (8), Ra.Myers (9) and Fletcher; Olivares, Hasegawa (7), Cadaret (8), P.Harris (8), Percival (9) and Walbeck. W–Escobar, 1-1. L–Hasegawa, 1-1. Sv–Ra.Myers (8).
HRs–Toronto, S.Green (6), Carrasco (9), T.Fernandez (2). Anaheim, Edmonds (5).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Los Angeles	000 000 000	0	7	3
Atlanta	000 221 10x	7	10	0

Dreifort, Osuna (6), Guthrie (7), Radinsky (8) and Piazza; G.Maddux, Cather (8) and Ed.Perez. W–G.Maddux, 4-2. L–Dreifort, 0-3. HRs–Atlanta, Ch.Jones (11), Tucker (8).

San Diego	000 000 011	2	8	0
Milwaukee	000 000 021	3	12	0

K.Brown, Miceli (8), VanRyn (8), C.Reyes (8) and C.Hernandez; Karl, Wickman (6), D.Jones (9) and Metheny. W–D.Jones, 2-1.
L–C.Reyes, 1-1. HR–San Diego, Gwynn (4).

Houston	000 000 000	0	1	1
Chicago	010 000 01x	2	8	0

Reynolds and Ausmus; K.Wood and S.Martinez.
W–K.Wood, 3-2.
L–Reynolds, 2-3.

Colorado	000 005 010	0–6	10	0
Philadelphia	200 210 001	1–7	13	0

(10 innings)

M.Thompson, B.M.Jones (4), Veres (6), DeJean (8), Dipoto (9), McElroy (10) and Manwaring. J.Read (10); Beech, Spradlin (6), Winston (8), M.Lieber (9) and Parent, Lieberthal (8).
W–M.Lieber, 2-0. L–McElroy, 0-1. HRs–Colorado, Helton (2), L.Walker (4).

St. Louis	000 000 000	4	0
Pittsburgh	000 100 40x	5	1

Stottlemyre, Busby (7), Bottenfield (7) and Lampkin; Schmidt, Christiansen (8) and Kendall. W–Schmidt, 4-1. L–Stottlemyre, 3-3. HR–Pittsburgh, Allensworth (1).

Cincinnati	002 001 100	4	9	0
Montreal	001 010 000	2	9	0

Remlinger, Sullivan (8), Shaw (9) and Taubensee; Vazquez, Kline (7), M.Valdes (8), M.Maddux (9) and Widger. W–Remlinger, 3-3. L–Vazquez, 1-3. Sv–Shaw (11). HRs–Cincinnati, D.Young (3). Montreal, Widger (1).

San Francisco	000 021 510	10	11	0
Florida	000 342 000	9	13	0

Rueter, Johnstone (5), S.Reed (7), Nen (9) and Mayne; L.Hernandez, F.Heredia (7), Allonseca (7), Darensbourg (8), Stanifer (8), Pall (9) and C.Johnson. W–S.Reed, 2-0.
L–Darensbourg, 0-4. Sv–Nen (5). HRs–San Francisco, Bonds (8), Aurilia (4), Mayne (2). Florida, Sheffield (4), Bonilla 2 (3), C.Johnson (6).

Arizona	000 200 000	2	8	1
New York	000 100 07x	8	9	2

Bn.Anderson, Sodowsky (7), Manuel (8) and Fabregas; Bj.Jones, Bohanon (4), Cook (7), Rojas (8), J.Franco (9) and Pratt.
W–Rojas, 2-0. L–Sodowsky, 1-2. HR–New York, McRae (1).

Wright on target for World Cup despite injury scare

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) – Ian Wright was still on target for a World Cup place on Wednesday night despite being stretchered off at Liverpool where newly-crowned champions Arsenal crashed to a 4-0 defeat as their 10-match winning run came to an end.

The 34-year-old, starting his first game since January 13, was carried off following a bad challenge from his close friend Paul Ince in a fiery second period.

Liverpool won with two first half goals from Paul Ince and another from Michael Owen who also had a penalty saved by Alex Manninger. Oyvind Leonhardsen scored Liverpool's fourth late in the game.

The result had no impact at the top with Arsenal already crowned champions on Sunday, but it means Liverpool will finish third behind Manchester United.

The Gunners, playing without nine of their regular championship-winning team, offered only tame resistance and as their fans partied in the stands the focus was left on Wright's injury.

But afterwards Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger revealed Wright's right leg was not as badly damaged as first feared.

He said: "He's not bad. I think he should be all right. It just touched his nerve but didn't damage his ankle at all.

"The damage is not big. He could maybe back for the last game with Villa on Sunday. He was scared because he had a sharp pain.

"But he didn't twist it. He just over-stretched a bit, but he didn't twist his ligaments." Ince went into the Arsenal dressing room immediately after the game to check on Wright's injury and was relieved to report his friend was well.

He said: "I didn't mean to do it. He's my best mate. I have been to see him and he is okay. It was just one of those tackles. He wants to play on Sunday and get into the World Cup squad. I didn't want to put him out of the World Cup." Wenger was less enthusiastic about Dennis Bergkamp's chances of playing in the FA Cup Final on May 16, adding, "I am pessimistic about his chances. At the moment it is 30-70 against him playing."

The Arsenal boss admitted his under-par side were suffering from the efforts they had put in to win the title as their record 10-match winning run came to an end.

"I could feel the concentration had gone and that we were not mentally sharp. It was obvious that our spirit was not fully in the game. We relaxed too much but in the second half the player's pride made them put on a better display."

Wenger was quick to reveal he would pick from his full squad for Sunday's game after leaving out so many of the title-winning side including David Seaman, Emmanuel Petit and Tony Adams.

SPORTS

in brief

FIBA fines AEK Athens for fan riots

MUNICH (AP) – Basketball's world governing body FIBA has fined AEK Athens 100,000 marks ($56,800) after fans clashed with Spanish riot police at last month's European Final Four in Barcelona.

Hooligans among the 2,500 AEK fans ripped out dozens of seats in Palau Sant Jordi, set off fireworks and showered police and opposing fans with debris in the April 21 semifinal.

At least five police suffered minor injuries.

In the final on April 23, AEK fans were cordoned off by baton-wielding police but still clashed with supporters of Kinder Bologna, injuring seven, FIBA said.

FIBA also said AEK's next home game must be played without spectators and warned the club could be disqualified from European competition if the incident were repeated.

Warne may be out for a year after surgery

SYDNEY (Reuters) – Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne may be out of action for a year after undergoing surgery to his damaged right shoulder, Australian cricket officials said yesterday.

Warne was expected to be out for less than five months but the injury has proved worse than first expected.

Australian television reported yesterday that Warne had been operated on even though he checked into hospital on Wednesday for exploratory surgery.

The Australian Cricket Board would not reveal the extent of Warne's injury but has scheduled a news conference today to discuss the case.

Wilkins sacked at Fulham, Keegan takes over

LONDON (Reuters) – Ray Wilkins was sacked yesterday as manager of English second division football club Fulham after just eight months in charge.

Former Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan, who has been Fulham's chief operating officer during that time, is to take over for the London club's play-off games as they bid for promotion.

A statement from Fulham, the club bought last May by Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed, said: "Fulham Football Club has decided to terminate Ray Wilkins' contract with immediate effect. Kevin Keegan will take charge for the forthcoming play-off games against Grimsby. We have no further comment."

It is understood the club have agreed to pay up the remaining three-and a-half-years of his £400,000 per-year salary.

Millionaire Al Fayed, whose west London luxury store is just a few minutes drive from Fulham's Craven Cottage ground, has big plans and has promised substantial investment in the club and its facilities.

Smith to stay at Rangers as reserve team boss

GLASGOW (Reuters) – Rangers manager Walter Smith has agreed to stay with the Scottish premier division club to oversee the reserve and youth teams, he said yesterday.

Smith, who will be replaced by Dutchman Dick Advocaat at the end of this season, told Scotland's Radio Clyde yesterday that he would be signing a two-year contract with the Glasgow club.

But he insisted he would have nothing to do with first team affairs. "I won't be trampling on any toes. Dick Advocaat should be allowed to get on with the job the way I was when I came," said Smith, who still has a chance of signing off with a league and cup double.

Rangers, seeking their 10th successive championship, are two points behind Celtic with one game each remaining and face Hearts in the Scottish Cup final.

Perfect Andy to bid emotional farewell

BONN (Reuters) – Andreas Brehme, World Cup winner and once described by Franz Beckenbauer as the finest player in Germany, plays his last league game as Kaiserslautern captain against Hamburg SV tomorrow.

Team captain Martin Wagner was happy to oblige when coach Otto Rehhagel asked him to hand over his armband to the 37-year-old Brehme for the match in Hamburg.

"He is an example for all of us," Wagner said.

Brehme cemented his place in soccer history by scoring the only goal from the penalty spot in Germany's 1990 World Cup final victory over Argentina.

"Andy is the most perfect football player that we have," Beckenbauer, then Germany head coach, said then.

One of the most versatile defensive players in European soccer, Brehme will play his 301st Bundesliga game in Hamburg. He played 86 times for Germany.

Sabau beats Erlich at Eisenberg tourney

By HEATHER CHAIT

Eyal Erlich, the third seed and last Israeli player in the singles of the $50,000 Eisenberg Jerusalem Open ATP tennis tournament, lost his quarter final match yesterday to Razvan Sabau of Romania.

Erlich, 65 places above Sabau in the ATP rankings at 177, lost 7-6(5), 6-3.

The first set went with serve until the tiebreak where Sabau snatched an early 3-0 lead, extended this to 6-2, fell back to 6-5 and then took the set.

Erlich's performance lacked attack in the second set while Sabau maintained and improved his determined, ambitious play.

Meeting Sabau in today's semi-final is seventh seed Neville Godwin from South Africa who beat Germany's Markus Hantschk 6-3, 7-5.

The other semi-final is also a Romanian-South African clash between Gabriel Trifu and David Nainkin respectively.

Trifu beat qualifier Julian Knowle from Austria 6-3, 7-6(5) and Nainkin beat France's Olivier Mutis 6-2, 7-5 in exactly one hour with Nainkin captilizing on Mutis' nine double faults.

The doubles final today caters to the local crowd with Noam Behr and Erlich facing Godwin and Nainkin.

Yesterday the Israelis beat second seeded Eyal Ran and Peter Tramacchi from Australia 6-4, 6-4 while the South Africans, seeded fourth, overcame a gutsy display from Harel Levy and Lior Mor.

Levy and Mor, loudly exhorted by national team captain Shlomo Glickstein and coach Oded Ya'akov, eventually lost 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

Both semi-final matches begin today at 13:00 followed by the doubles final.

Tomorrow singles final is at 10.30.

Crowds flock to English club rugby

LONDON (Reuters) – English club rugby is booming with premiership crowds up more than 20 percent on last season.

As the game continues to be devilled by the club v. country debate, the latest figures show that there is room for both with fans continuing to pack Twickenham for internationals as well as supporting their local sides in unprecedented numbers.

Leading the way are current league leaders Saracens, who have seen an astonishing 176.6 percent rise in attendance figures this season.

After playing on little more than a public park two years ago, Saracens' move to Watford football club's Vicarage Road ground has seen their average rocket to 9,322 with a season high of more than 19,000.

Promoted Newcastle, favorites to take the title, boast a percentage rise of 72.1 with Gloucester (52.8), Richmond (44.7) and Harlequins (37.5) also recording huge improvements.

The only clubs to see a drop this season are bottom side Bristol (-1.7) and last year's champions Wasps, whose disappointing showing this time has led to a 7.8 percent decline.

The figures are all the more remarkable given the six-week shutdown of domestic club rugby in October and November to allow for the playing of the European Cup.

That barren period was one of the major bugbears of the clubs, who say the break makes it difficult for fans to develop a regular relationship with their local teams.

Inside

Rugby sevens for Jerusalem
Page 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Chang, Rusedski, Krajicek join falling seeds in German Open

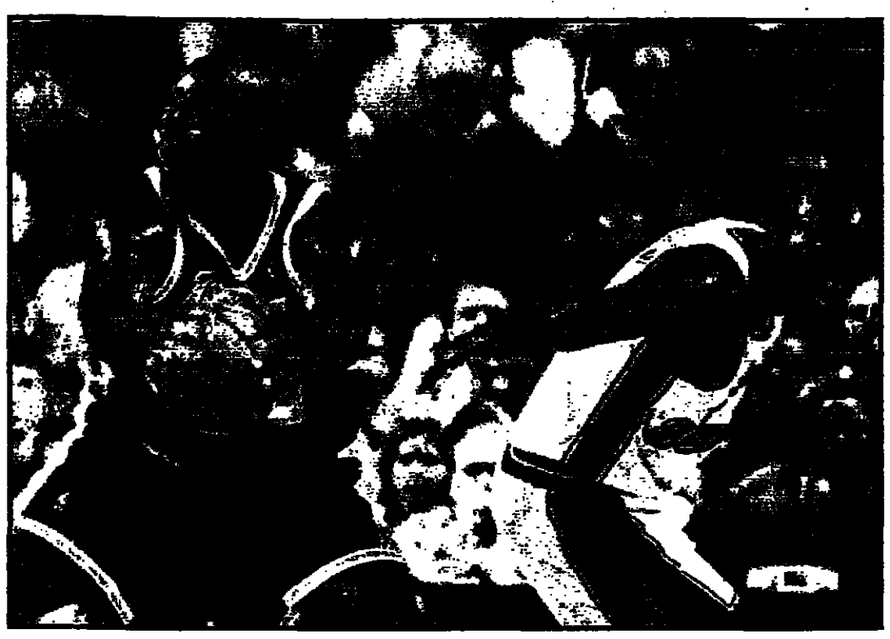
HAMBURG (Reuters) – Former French Open champion Michael Chang became the seventh seed to tumble out of the weather-hit German Open yesterday.

Chang, now at world No. 15, was beaten by tenacious Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-3 6-7 6-2 in the second round.

Two more seeds, Richard Krajicek and Greg Rusedski, fell by the wayside later in the day, though the defeat of the two big servers on slow clay could hardly be considered a big surprise.

Thomas Muster was hustled his way to the fourth round on the covered center court.

The Austrian, who will equal the record of nine Super Nine tournament titles held by Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi if he wins the title here, he beat the German qualifier Jens Knippschild 6-1 6-4.



LA's Shaquille O'Neal (left) looks for passing room around Seattle's Jerome Kersey. (Reuters)

Hornets sting Bulls, Lakers breeze past Sonics

CHICAGO (AP) – Dell Curry and B.J. Armstrong took over for Charlotte's slumping starters, combining for 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Hornets beat Chicago 78-76 Wednesday night.

The victory evened the Eastern Conference semifinals at one game apiece, with Game 3 today in Charlotte. It is the second straight year that Chicago lost Game 2 of the conference semifinals.

Anthony Mason had 15 points and Glen Rice 14, but it was Curry and Armstrong who carried the Hornets. Curry had 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, and Armstrong scored eight of his 10 in the final period as Charlotte overcame an eight-point deficit.

Armstrong's jumper with 18 seconds left sealed the game, and the former Bull, who played on three of Chicago's championship teams, turned to his old teammates, pumped his fist and woofed.

Michael Jordan had 22 points, including eight in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough to help the cold-shooting Bulls.

Chicago was just 8-of-24 (33 percent) in the fourth quarter, and 31-of-85 (36.5 percent) overall. Scottie Pippen, who finished with 13, missed all six of his field goal attempts and was scoreless in the final period.

Coming off a cold performance Sunday, Charlotte looked as if it was headed for another bad night. Trailing by eight midway through the fourth quarter, the Hornets' shooting percentage was hovering around 35 percent. Mason and Rice were struggling, a combined 9-of-24 through three quarters.

So coach Dave Cowens turned to his bench. Curry hit a 3-pointer with 6:46 left to spark a 9-0 run and his follow-up jumper gave Charlotte a 64-63 lead, its first since the first quarter. Armstrong extended the edge with consecutive jumpers, and Charlotte held off the Bulls the rest of the way.

Vlade Divac had 19 rebounds for Charlotte.

Lakers 92, SuperSonics 68

In Seattle, SuperSonics coach George Karl got Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers really steamed.

Stung by Karl's criticism of O'Neal's high elbows and hip-hop moves in the paint, the Lakers evened their Western Conference semifinal series with Seattle at one game each with a 92-68 victory.

O'Neal scored 26 points, including 20 in the first half, and also had 10 rebounds and four blocked shots before leaving with 4:20 to play and the Lakers ahead by 21.

The Lakers played without 19-year-old All-Star Kobe Bryant, who missed the game because of flu.

Eddie Jones added a career play-off-high 23 points and Nick Van Exel had 16 for the Lakers.

Vin Baker had 13 points and Gary Payton and Sam Perkins 12 apiece for Seattle, which was held to a franchise-low postseason scoring output. The previous low was 70 in a 21-point loss to Houston in 1982. The Sonics did come back to win that series.

The 68 points were the fewest given up by the Lakers in a playoff game.

The Sonics made 13 baskets during the last three quarters and shot 33 percent (25-for-76) for the game.

Games 3 and 4 will be held in Los Angeles Friday and Sunday, with Game 5 in Seattle next Tuesday.

Beit She'an, Betar cleared of match-fixing

By ORI LEWIS

The findings of an interim report into alleged match-fixing in Saturday's match between Hapoel Beit She'an and Betar Jerusalem have failed to reveal any criminal activity by players and club officials, the Israel Football Association (IFA) said yesterday.

Allegations into possible match-fixing surfaced in the media following last Saturday's National League match which Betar won 3-2 in injury time.

"The results of the report have brought me to the conclusion that there is no room to turn the matter over to the police for a criminal investigation," said Moshe Avivi, the IFA's legal adviser.

In quoting from the report, Avivi said: "There is no proof of organized unsporting conduct by Hapoel Beit She'an which could lead to disciplinary proceedings against the club.

"There is also no cause to take action against Betar Jerusalem..."

At the same time as the findings were revealed, Moshe Dadash, the chairman of Betar, who resigned on Tuesday citing death threats on him and his family by fans from rival club Hapoel Tel Aviv, rescinded his resignation.

"Following the plea of (Jerusalem Mayor Ehud) Olmert and the great support I have received from Betar's fans, I have decided to return as chairman..." Dadash said in Jerusalem yesterday.

With the score at 2-2 and 20 minutes of Saturday's match remaining, Beit She'an, who at the kickoff were fighting to avoid relegation, knew they were safe from the drop because Hapoel Beersheba and Bnei Yehuda had both lost.

This caused a sudden, dramatic drop in the Beit She'an players' commitment in the match, as Betar laid siege on their goal, culminating in a winner in injury-time which has seen the Jerusalem club maintain the initiative going into the last round of league matches on Saturday.

Betar lead Hapoel Tel Aviv by a point in the standings and a win in their home fixture against Maccabi Petah Tikva tomorrow will earn them a second consecutive league title.

Hapoel Tel Aviv chairman Moshe Teomim voiced his disappointment at the outcome of the report saying: "Even if the thief gets away, it doesn't mean a robbery was not committed, everybody saw what happened in the match (which was shown live on TV)."

In all, six Beit She'an players and three officials were called for questioning by the private firm which carried out the investigation on behalf of the IFA. Some of them underwent lie-detector tests.

Beit She'an club chairman Avraham Yitzhak said yesterday that it was all a storm in a teacup. "A week of frustration in Beit She'an has come to nought. Moshe Teomim is still looking for the thief but there was no basis to any allegations against us," he said.

Yitzhak also said that Teomim, a senior figure in the local advertising business had the media on his side in the "smear campaign" against his

Soccer season honors ripe for picking

By OFER ROMEN-ABELS

The day of reckoning arrives for Betar Jerusalem, Hapoel Tel Aviv, Hapoel Beersheba and Bnei Yehuda tomorrow, the last day of the National League season.

Betar entertain Maccabi Petah Tikva as Hapoel Tel Aviv travel to already-relegated Hapoel Ashkelon in their bid to land the title (kickoff at 1750). While at the bottom Bnei Yehuda and Beersheba will try and win in their attempt to stave off relegation (kickoff at 1700).

Following the well-publicized affair over the match between Betar and Beit She'an (see story above), defending champions Betar will try and prove tomorrow, in front of a packed-to-the rafters Teddy Stadium, that the incidents of the last seven days couldn't overshadow a long and successful campaign.

Hapoel Ashkelon, will host championship hopefuls Hapoel Tel Aviv, in what will be the home side's last bow from what was a brief flirtation with the high life.

Tel Aviv are expected to cruise to an easy win after bottom of the table Ashkelon had released all of their foreign players ahead of the game.

Coach Ronny Dura, who has conceded defeat in his team's season-long battle to beat the drop since taking up the caretaker job, was quoted as saying that he has let a few youngsters in, hoping, this move might pay off in the future.

Hapoel Tel Aviv's top scorer Ofer Shlomit and Betar Jerusalem's skipper Shmulik Levy will miss the last day of the season following red cards both players collected last Saturday.

Hapoel Beersheba will try and avoid relegation when they host cup finalists Maccabi Haifa who will be resting a few players before their cup final in midweek. A player who will not miss the trip south is Israel international striker Alon Mizrahi who will try and finish as the season's top scorer yet again.

Bnei Yehuda who suffered a 4-1 drubbing by the hands of third-place Hapoel Haifa last week, are one point above Beersheba in the standings and hope to secure their place in the top flight for as they travel to ninth-placed Ironi Rishon. In the four other "irrelevant" matches to be played today it's Hap. Haifa v Hap. Beit She'an, Hap. Petah Tikva v Hap. Jerusalem, Hap. Kfar Sava v Mac. Herzliya and Mac. Tel Aviv v Ironi Ashdod.

National League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bet. Jerusalem	29	18	10	1	67	31	64
Hap. Tel Aviv	29	19	6	4	57	13	63
Hap. Haifa	29	16	10	3	55	24	58
Mac. Haifa	29	14	8	7	48	33	50
Hap. Petah Tikva	29	11	6	12	37	39	39
Hap. Kfar Sava	29	10	8	11	38	37	38
Ironi Rishon	29	10	6	13	41	50	36
Mac. Tel Aviv	29	8	10	11	31	33	34
Mac. Petah Tikva	29	7	13	9	24	28	34
Hap. Jerusalem	29	8	10	11	33	42	34
Ironi Ashdod	29	8	10	11	36	47	34
Mac. Herzliya	29	8	9	12	35	39	33
Hap. Beit She'an	29	8	8	13	32	42	32
Bnei Yehuda	29	7	8	14	23	38	29
Hap. Beersheba	29	6	10	13	36	54	28
z. Hap. Ashkelon	29	5	6	18	24	47	21

Hap. J'lem shocks Maccabi 72-70 to force fourth playoff game

By ELI GRONER

Thirty-nine minutes and 57 seconds after stepping on the court in Yad Eliyahu as a surprise starter, H Waldman provided a fantastic finish. Waldman gave Oded Katash a dose of his own medicine – utilizing a terrific crossover dribble – before driving to the hoop to score the winning basket with just three seconds remaining.

Hapoel Jerusalem's 72-70 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv forces the semifinal series to go to an unexpected Game 4, which will be held in Malha on Sunday night. The loss snapped a 29-game playoff winning streak for Maccabi, dating back to 1994.

Waldman wasn't even supposed to be on the court for the last possession, but Adi Gordon failed to get to the scorers' table in time to replace him.

It was a much different Jerusalem squad than the one that lost by 39 points at home in Game 2. Effi Birnbaum's club was especially motivated, scoring high marks in the "hustle" categories – offensive rebounds and steals. That tenacity, along with an exceptionally strong defensive performance, allowed Hapoel to dictate the pace for most of the game. The result was a slow, stiff contest that didn't allow anybody to get untracked.

But the methodical bruiser turned into an elegant duel over the final four minutes. Doron Sheffer elevated his game down the stretch, scoring eight points in the final four minutes. Each time though, Hapoel responded, and a Radisav Curcic field goal with 51 seconds to play gave Jerusalem its first lead, 70-68, since midway through the first half.

Sheffer buried a medium range jump shot on the other end, setting the stage for Waldman's game-winner.

The contrast between Hapoel's victory last night and its embarrasing debacle on Sunday was not lost on Birnbaum. "We have a veteran team that learned from its mistakes in Game 2," he noted.

Curcic led Hapoel with 18 points. Katash paced all scorers with 20.

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